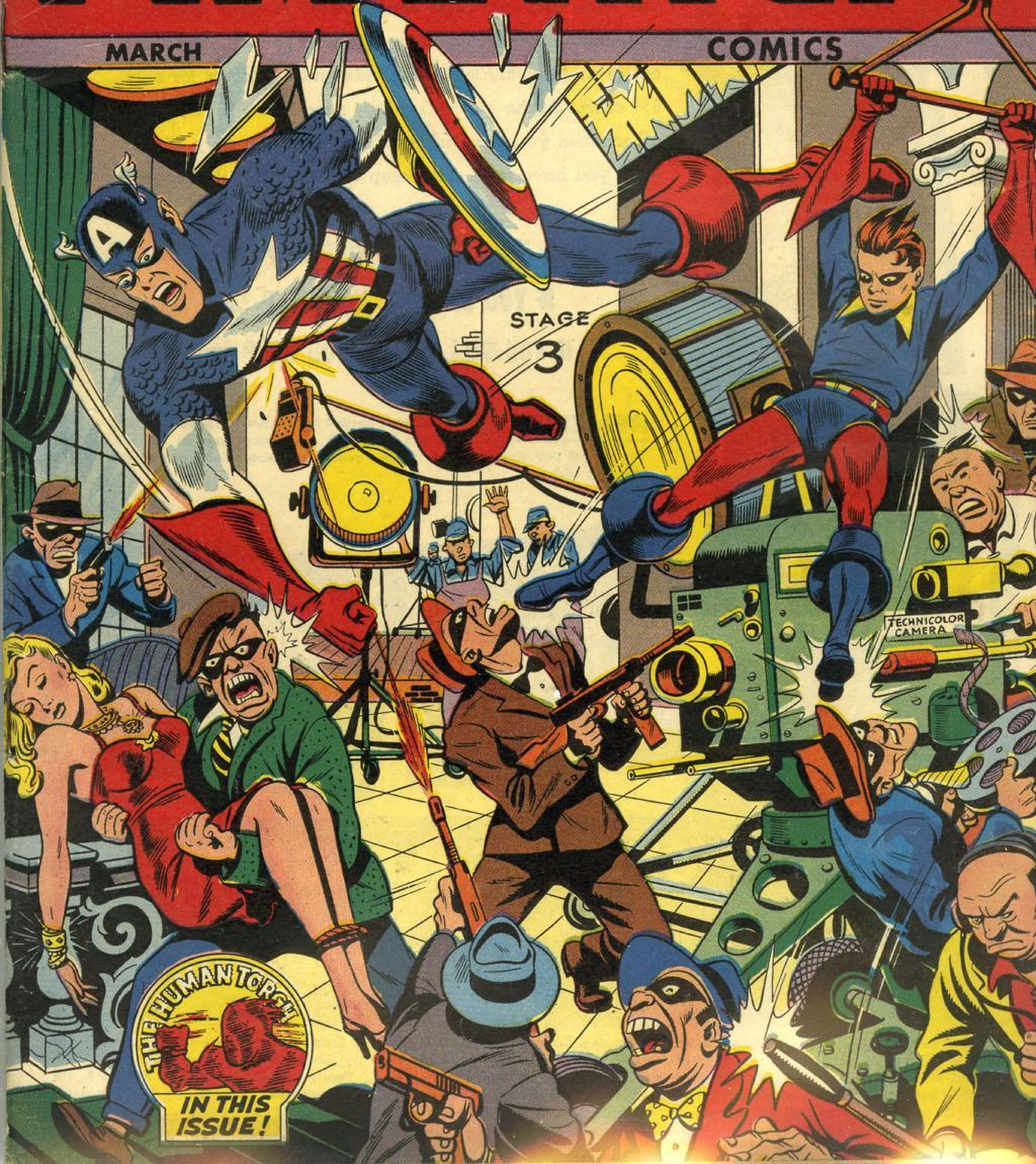
CAPTAIN AMERICA

NO. 54

10¢

MARCH COMICS


STAGE 3
TECHNICOLOR CAMERA
THE HUMAN TORCH
IN THIS ISSUE!

DO YOU WANT SPENDING MONEY?

Sell these popular Patriotic and Religious Mottoes

mother
God took the Sunshine from the Skies
And made the lovelight in your eyes
He gave you breath
And with his love
Made yours divine
But best of all
HE MADE YOU
MINE
CHILD'S PRAYER
Now I lay me down to Sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I should Die before I Wake.
I pray the Lord my soul to take
The Way Of The CROSS LEADS HOME

SEND US NO MONEY IN ADVANCE

Just write and ask us to send you 40 of these beautiful glittering mottoes which the public likes so well. Sell them easily and quickly to your friends and neighbors for only 35¢ each. At the end of 14 days send back, if you wish, all mottoes you have not sold, and send us only 25¢ for each you have sold. You keep all the rest of the money.

IF YOU SELL 25, YOU KEEP $2.50

IF YOU SELL 30, YOU KEEP $3.00

IF YOU SELL ALL 40 YOU KEEP $4.00

REMEMBER: No money is needed in advance. You take no risks. You can return all the mottoes you do not sell. You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

GOD BLESS AMERICA
MY
HOME SWEET HOME

God Bless
OUR
HOME

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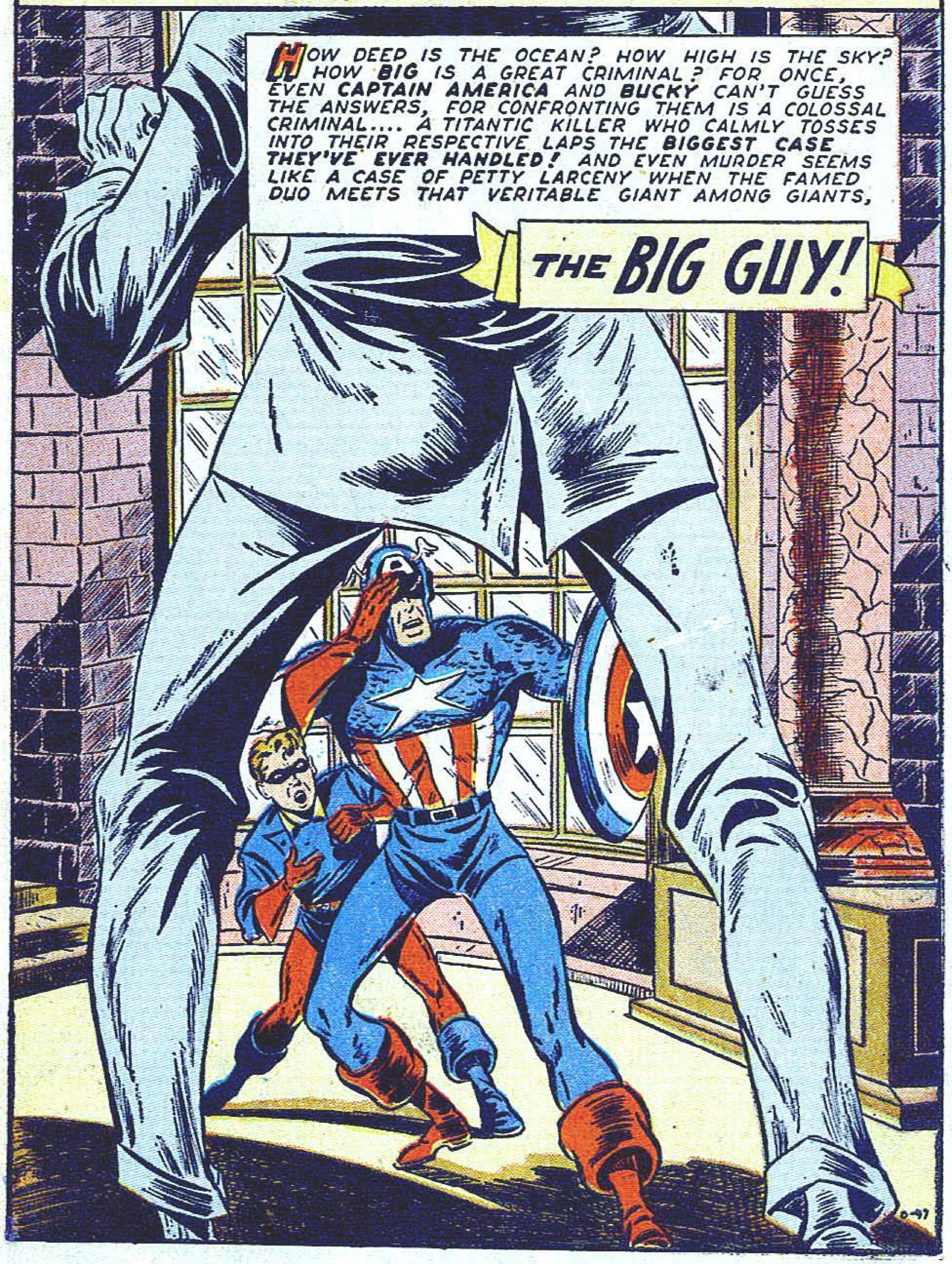
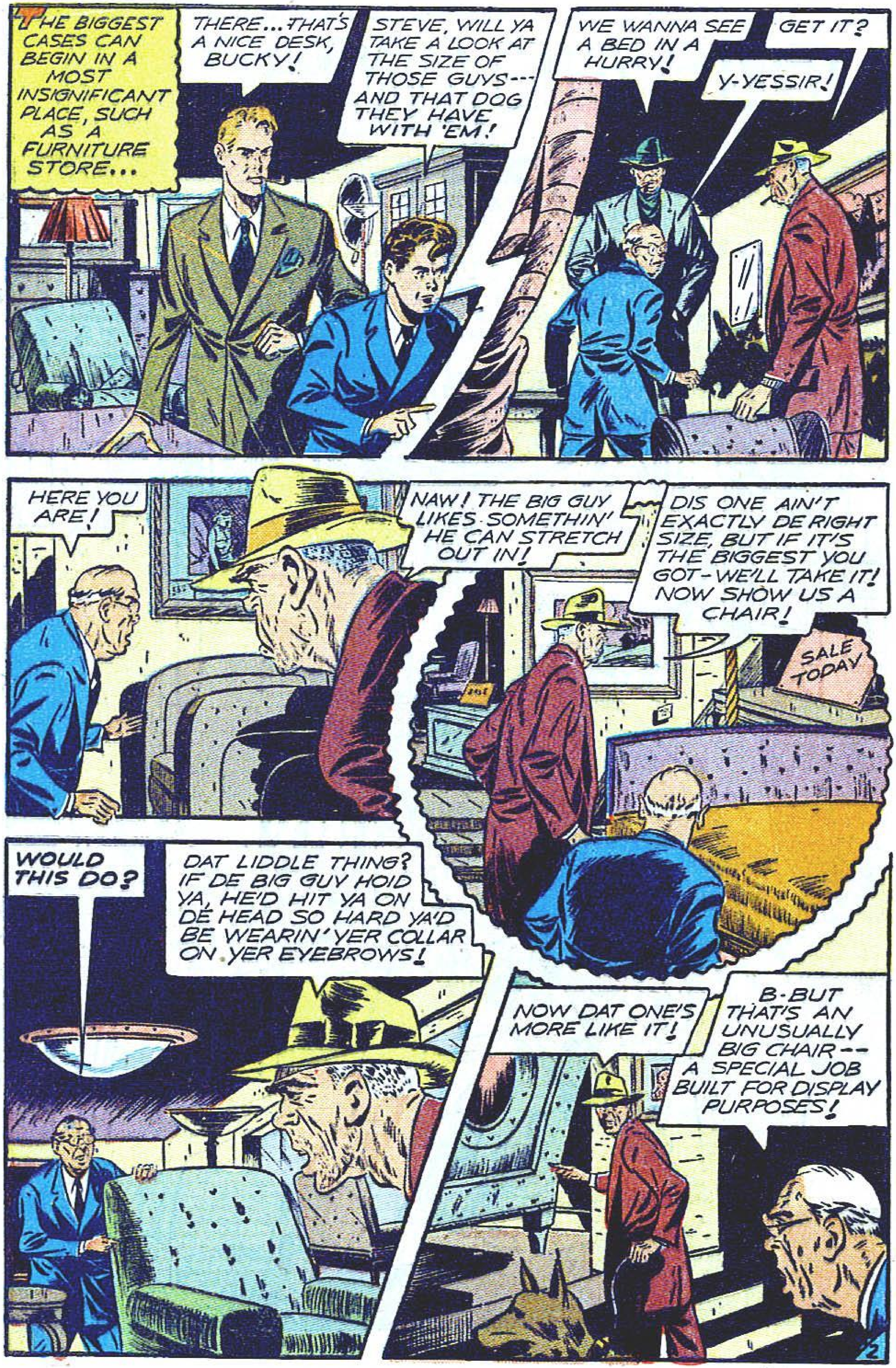
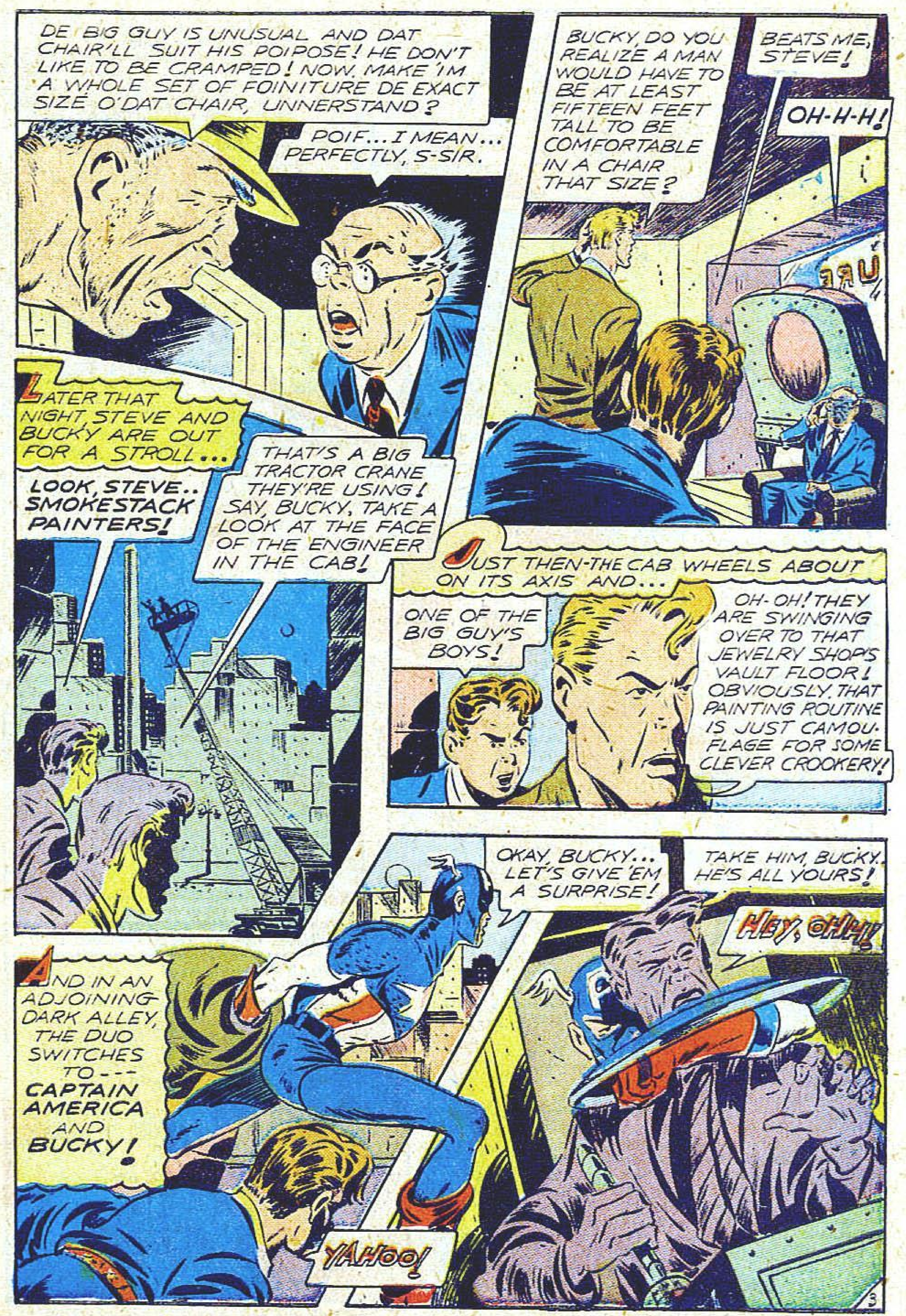
CAPTAIN AMERICA

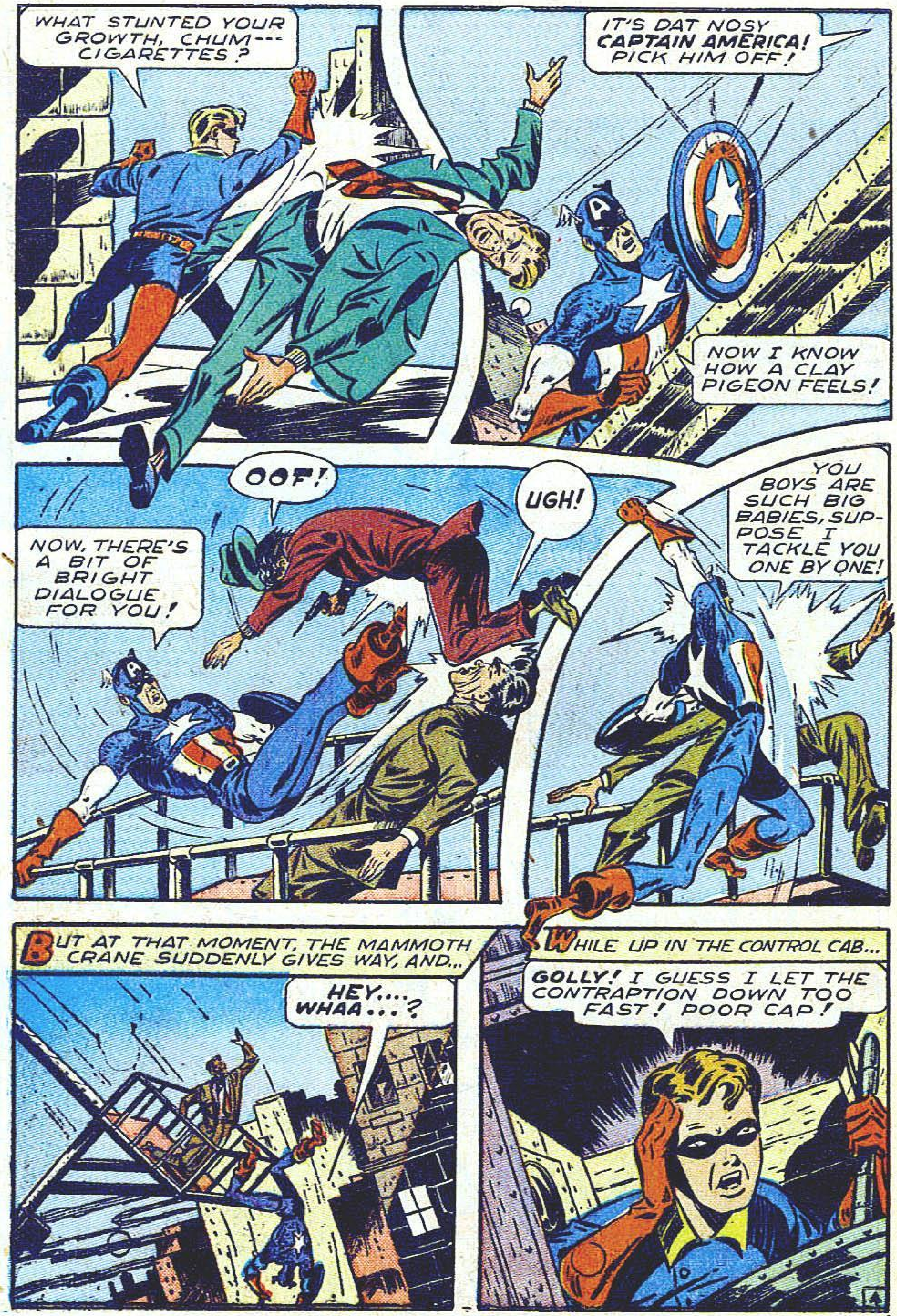


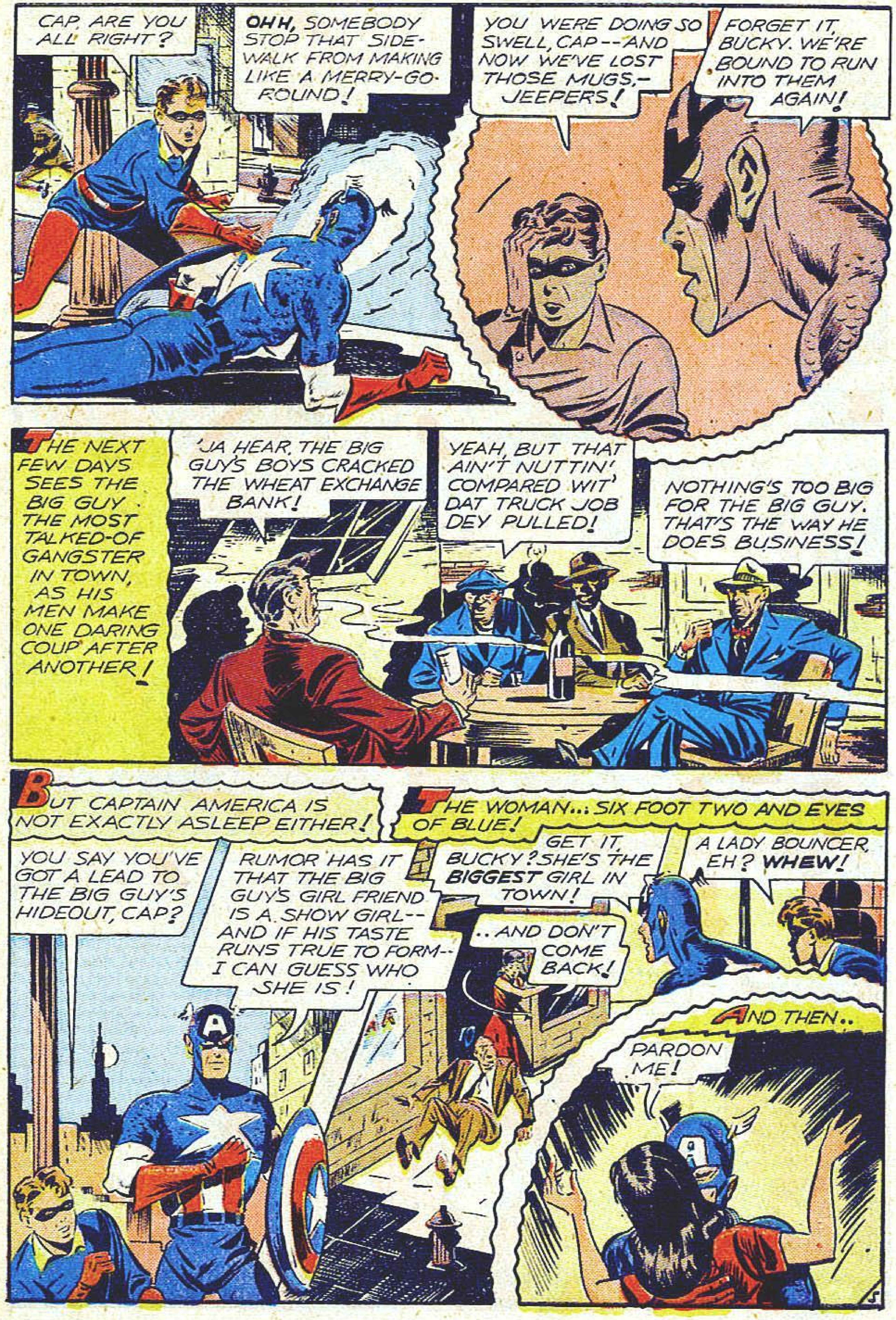
HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN? HOW HIGH IS THE SKY? HOW **BIG** IS A GREAT CRIMINAL? FOR ONCE, EVEN **CAPTAIN AMERICA** AND **BUCKY** CAN'T GUESS THE ANSWERS, FOR CONFRONTING THEM IS A COLOSSAL CRIMINAL.... A TITANTIC KILLER WHO CALMLY TOSSES INTO THEIR RESPECTIVE LAPS THE **BIGGEST CASE THEY'VE EVER HANDLED!** AND EVEN MURDER SEEMS LIKE A CASE OF PETTY LARCENY WHEN THE FAMED DUO MEETS THAT VERITABLE GIANT AMONG GIANTS,

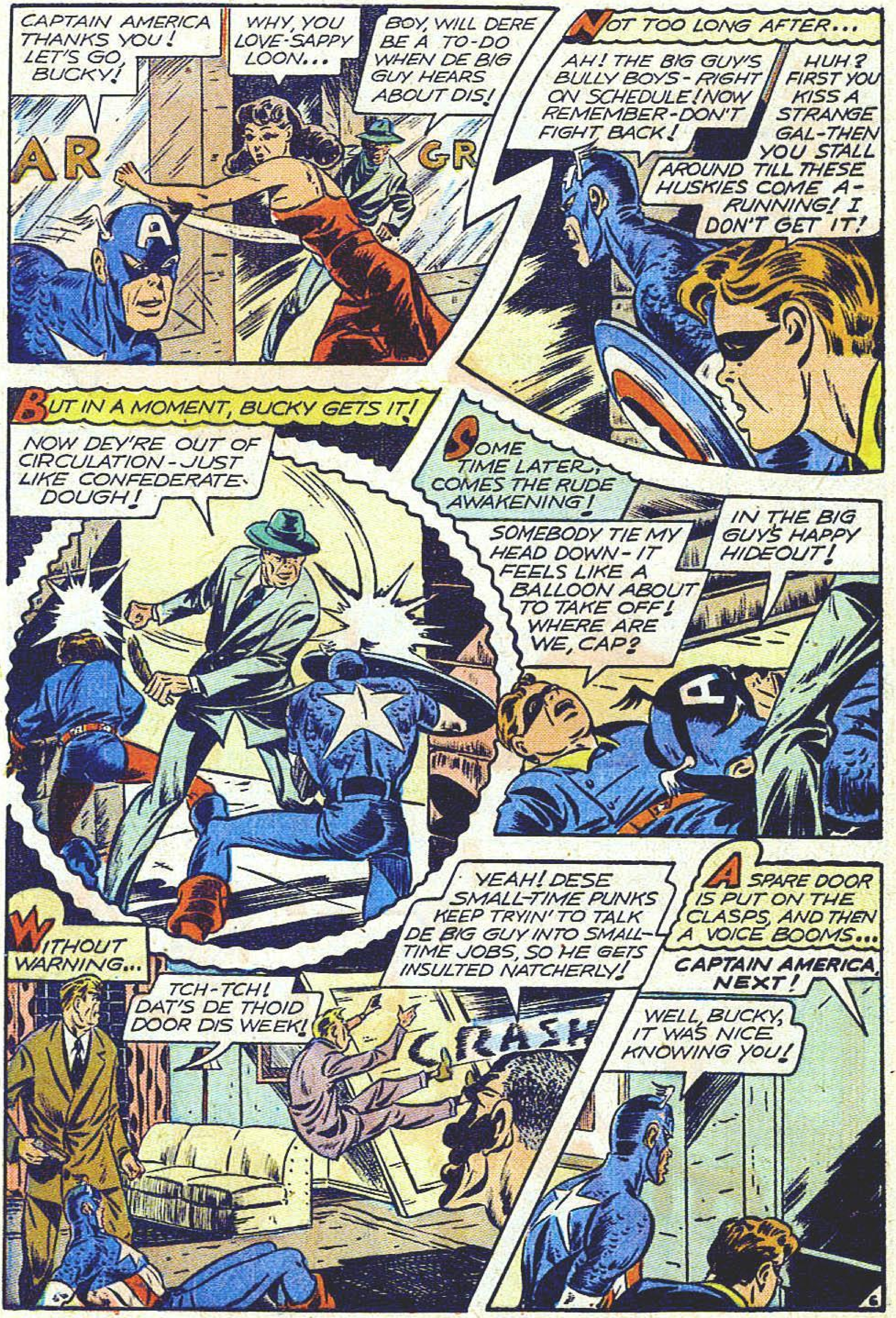
THE BIG GUY!

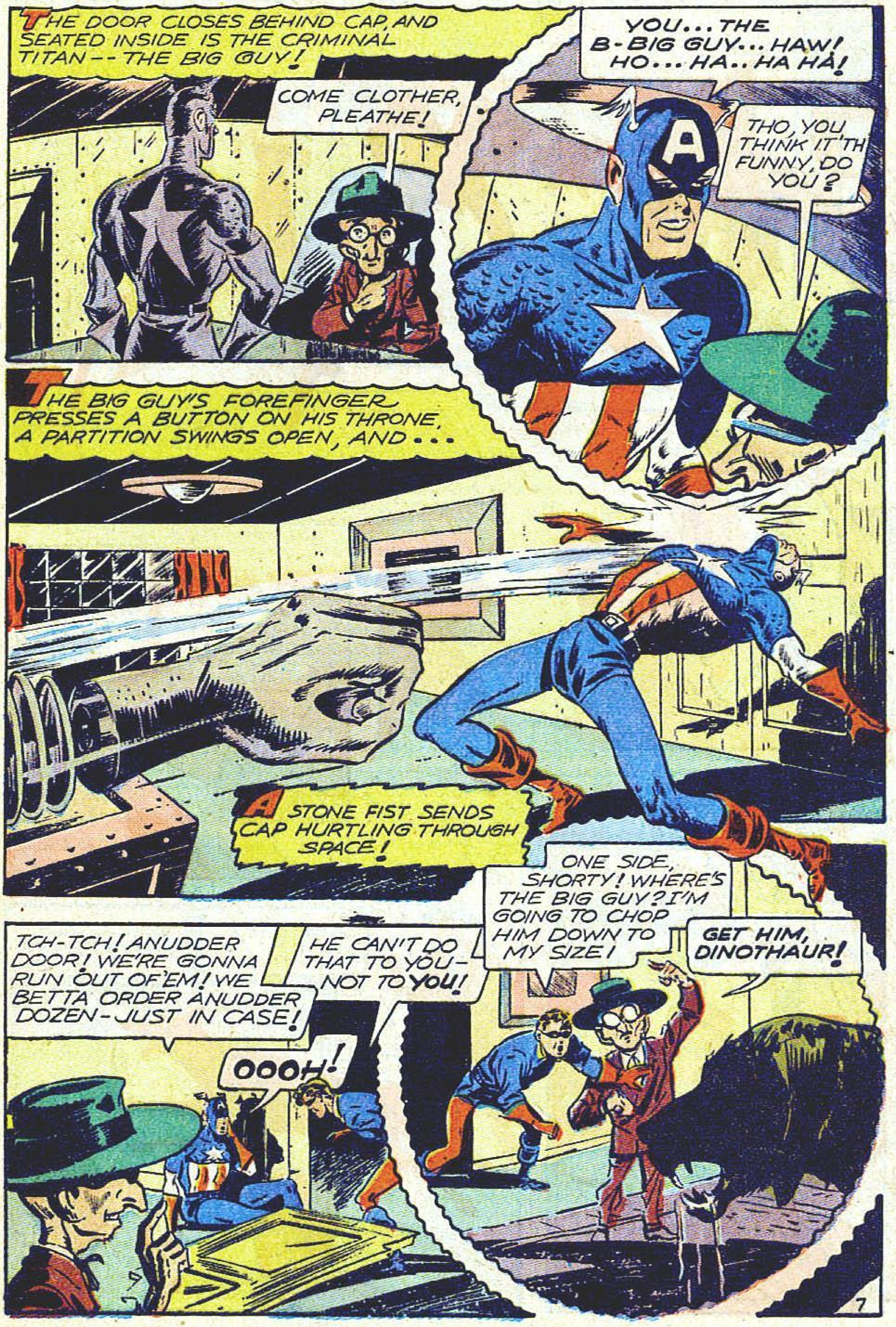

THE BIGGEST CASES CAN BEGIN IN A MOST INSIGNIFICANT PLACE, SUCH AS A FURNITURE STORE...
THERE... THAT'S A NICE DESK, BUCKY!
STEVE, WILL YA TAKE A LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THOSE GUYS--- AND THAT DOG THEY HAVE WITH 'EM!
WE WANNA SEE A BED IN A HURRY!
GET IT?
Y-YESSIR!
HERE YOU ARE!
NAW! THE BIG GUY LIKES SOMETHIN' HE CAN STRETCH OUT IN!
DIS ONE AIN'T EXACTLY DE RIGHT SIZE, BUT IF IT'S THE BIGGEST YOU GOT-WE'LL TAKE IT! NOW SHOW US A CHAIR!
SALE TODAY
WOULD THIS DO?
DAT LIDDLE THING? IF DE BIG GUY HOID YA, HE'D HIT YA ON DE HEAD SO HARD YA'D BE WEARIN' YER COLLAR ON YER EYEBROWS!
NOW DAT ONE'S MORE LIKE IT!
B-BUT THAT'S AN UNUSUALLY BIG CHAIR -- A SPECIAL JOB BUILT FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES!

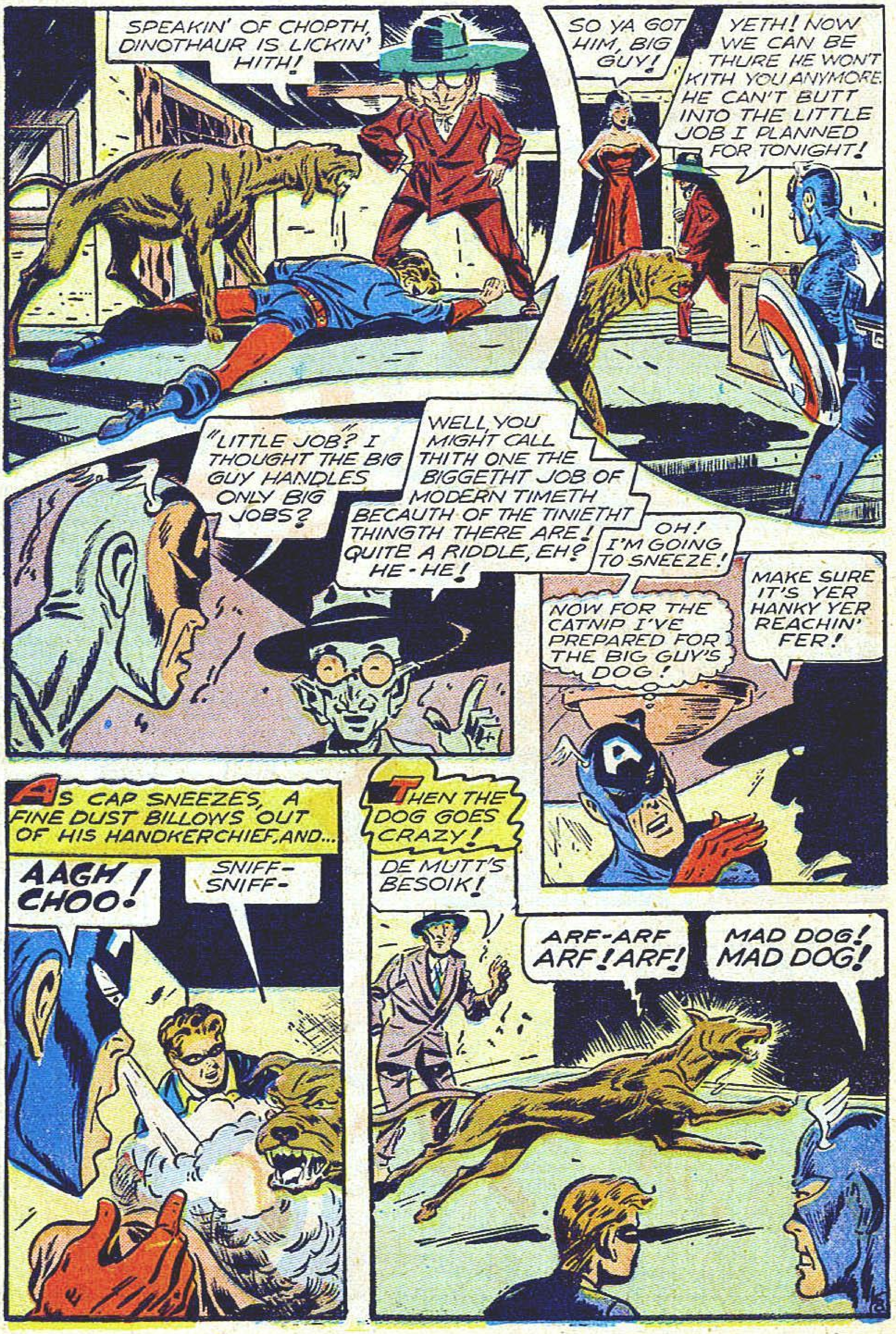

DE BIG GUY IS UNUSUAL AND DAT CHAIR'LL SUIT HIS POIPOSE! HE DON'T LIKE TO BE CRAMPED! NOW, MAKE 'IM A WHOLE SET OF FOINITURE DE EXACT SIZE O'DAT CHAIR, UNNERSTAND?
POIF... I MEAN... PERFECTLY, S-SIR.
BUCKY, DO YOU REALIZE A MAN WOULD HAVE TO BE AT LEAST FIFTEEN FEET TALL TO BE COMFORTABLE IN A CHAIR THAT SIZE?
BEATS ME, STEVE!
OH-H-H!
LATER THAT NIGHT, STEVE AND BUCKY ARE OUT FOR A STROLL...
LOOK, STEVE.. SMOKESTACK PAINTERS!
THAT'S A BIG TRACTOR CRANE THEY'RE USING! SAY, BUCKY, TAKE A LOOK AT THE FACE OF THE ENGINEER IN THE CAB!
JUST THEN-THE CAB WHEELS ABOUT ON ITS AXIS AND...
ONE OF THE BIG GUY'S BOYS!
OH-OH! THEY ARE SWINGING OVER TO THAT JEWELRY SHOP'S VAULT FLOOR! OBVIOUSLY, THAT PAINTING ROUTINE IS JUST CAMOUFLAGE FOR SOME CLEVER CROOKERY!
AND IN AN ADJOINING DARK ALLEY, THE DUO SWITCHES TO--- CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY!
OKAY, BUCKY... LET'S GIVE 'EM A SURPRISE!
YAHOO!
TAKE HIM, BUCKY. HE'S ALL YOURS!
HEY, OHH!

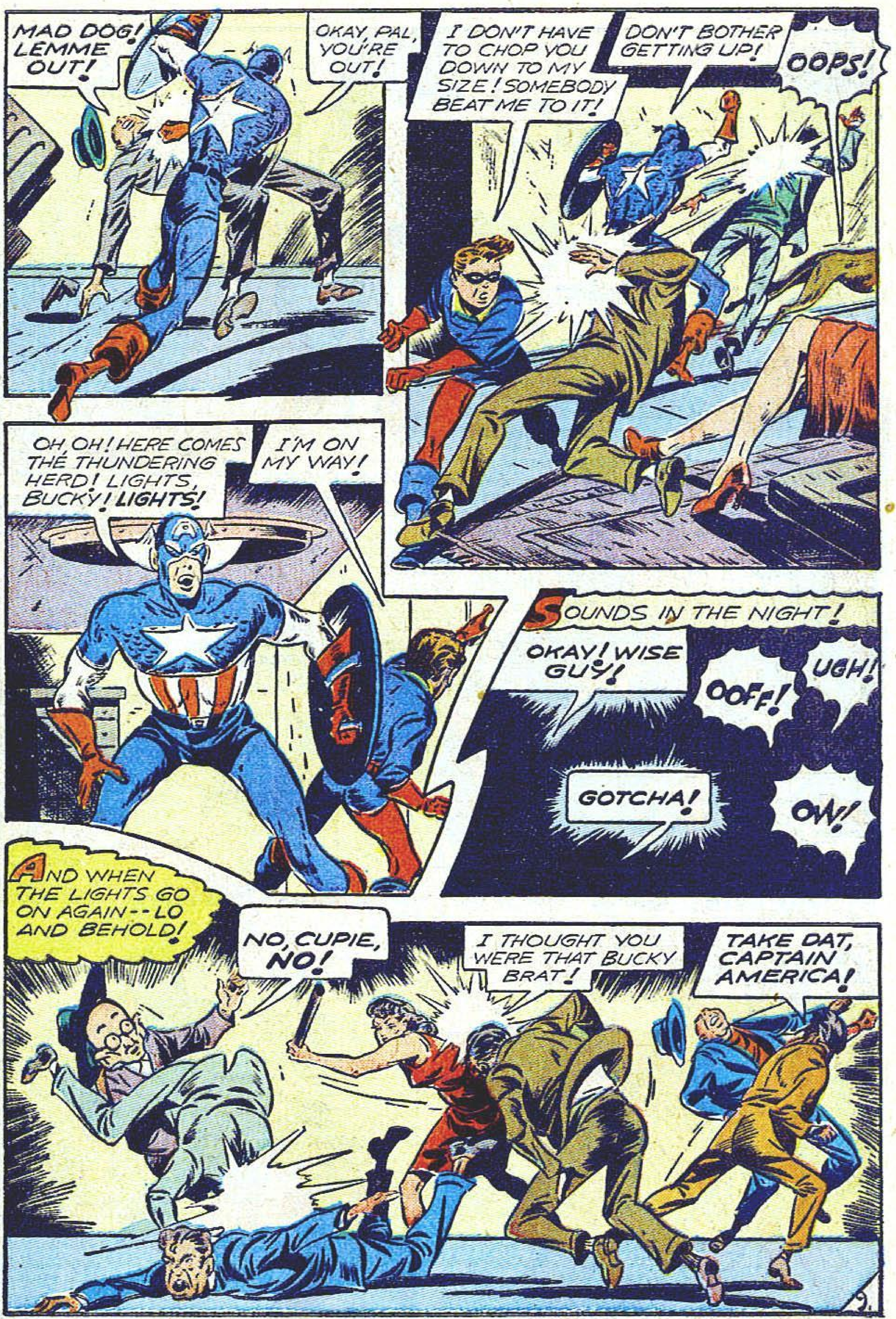

WHAT STUNTED YOUR GROWTH, CHUM--- CIGARETTES?
IT'S DAT NOSY **CAPTAIN AMERICA!** PICK HIM OFF!
NOW I KNOW HOW A CLAY PIGEON FEELS!
OOF!
UGH!
NOW, THERE'S A BIT OF BRIGHT DIALOGUE FOR YOU!
YOU BOYS ARE SUCH BIG BABIES, SUPPOSE I TACKLE YOU ONE BY ONE!
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, THE MAMMOTH CRANE SUDDENLY GIVES WAY, AND...
HEY.... WHAA...?
WHILE UP IN THE CONTROL CAB...
GOLLY! I GUESS I LET THE CONTRAPTION DOWN TOO FAST! POOR CAP!

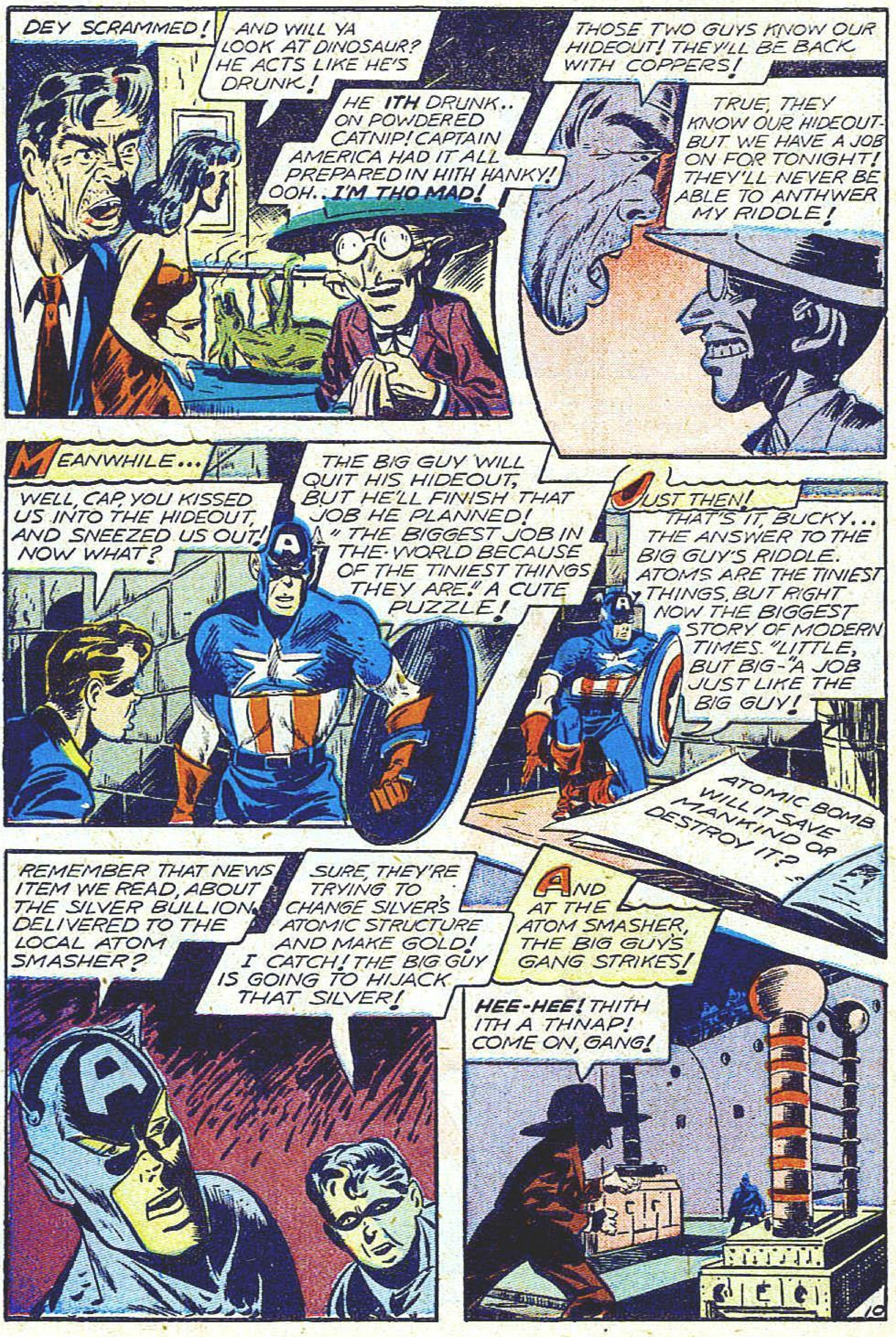

CAP, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OHH, SOMEBODY STOP THAT SIDEWALK FROM MAKING LIKE A MERRY-GO-ROUND!
YOU WERE DOING SO SWELL, CAP--AND NOW WE'VE LOST THOSE MUGS.-JEEPERS!
FORGET IT, BUCKY. WE'RE BOUND TO RUN INTO THEM AGAIN!
THE NEXT FEW DAYS SEES THE BIG GUY THE MOST TALKED-OF GANGSTER IN TOWN, AS HIS MEN MAKE ONE DARING COUP AFTER ANOTHER!
'JA HEAR, THE BIG GUY'S BOYS CRACKED THE WHEAT EXCHANGE BANK!
YEAH, BUT THAT AIN'T NUTTIN' COMPARED WIT' DAT TRUCK JOB DEY PULLED!
NOTHING'S TOO BIG FOR THE BIG GUY. THAT'S THE WAY HE DOES BUSINESS!
BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA IS NOT EXACTLY ASLEEP EITHER!
YOU SAY YOU'VE GOT A LEAD TO THE BIG GUY'S HIDEOUT, CAP?
RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE BIG GUY'S GIRL FRIEND IS A SHOW GIRL--AND IF HIS TASTE RUNS TRUE TO FORM--I CAN GUESS WHO SHE IS!
THE WOMAN... SIX FOOT TWO AND EYES OF BLUE!
GET IT, BUCKY? SHE'S THE BIGGEST GIRL IN TOWN!
A LADY BOUNCER, EH? WHEW!
..AND DON'T COME BACK!
AND THEN..
PARDON ME!

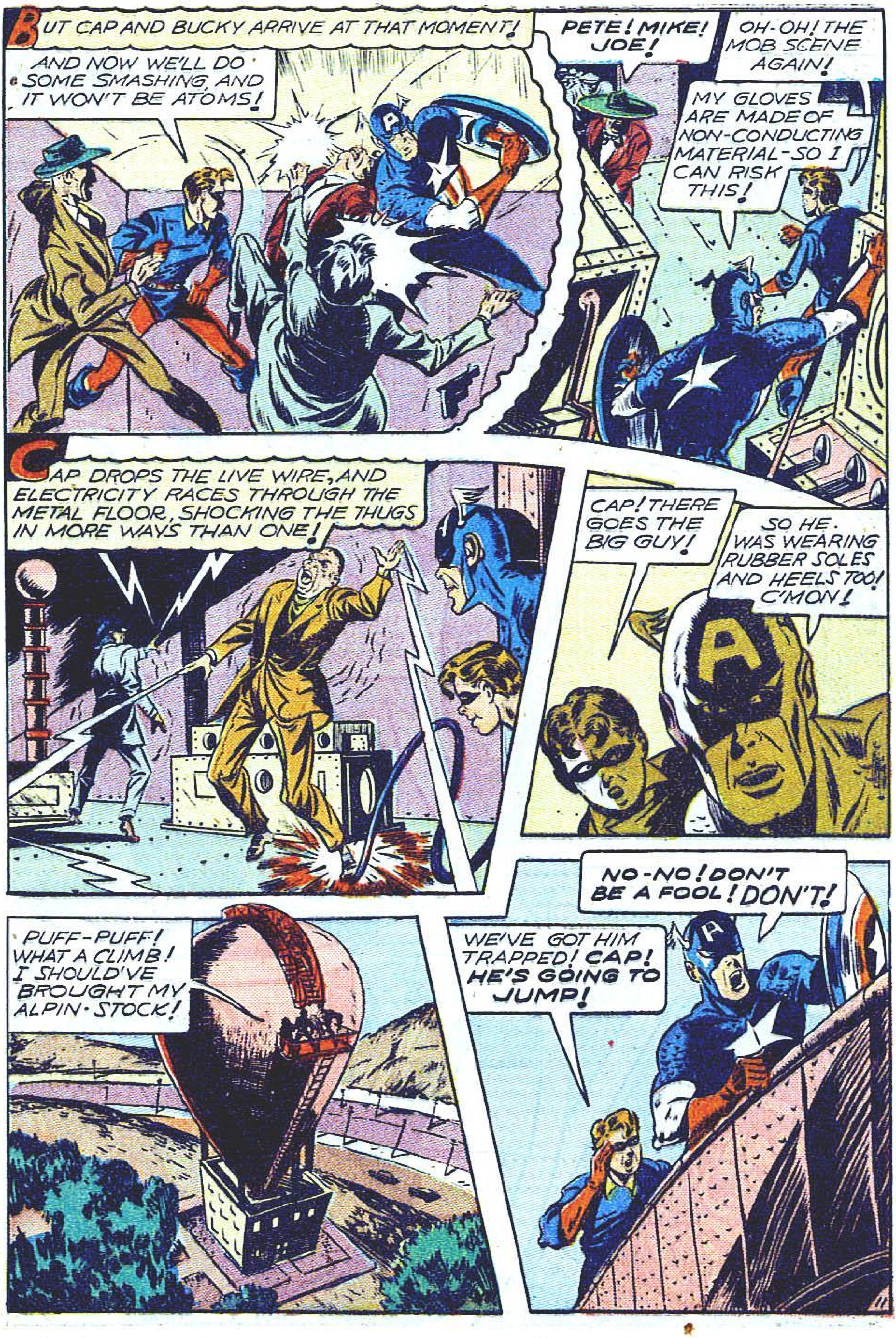

CAPTAIN AMERICA THANKS YOU! LET'S GO, BUCKY!
WHY, YOU LOVE-SAPPY LOON...
BOY, WILL DERE BE A TO-DO WHEN DE BIG GUY HEARS ABOUT DIS!
AR
GR
NOT TOO LONG AFTER...
AH! THE BIG GUY'S BULLY BOYS - RIGHT ON SCHEDULE! NOW REMEMBER - DON'T FIGHT BACK!
HUH? FIRST YOU KISS A STRANGE GAL - THEN YOU STALL AROUND TILL THESE HUSKIES COME A-RUNNING! I DON'T GET IT!
BUT IN A MOMENT, BUCKY GETS IT!
NOW DEY'RE OUT OF CIRCULATION - JUST LIKE CONFEDERATE DOUGH!
SOME TIME LATER, COMES THE RUDE AWAKENING!
SOMEBODY TIE MY HEAD DOWN - IT FEELS LIKE A BALLOON ABOUT TO TAKE OFF! WHERE ARE WE, CAP?
IN THE BIG GUY'S HAPPY HIDEOUT!
WITHOUT WARNING...
TCH-TCH! DAT'S DE THOID DOOR DIS WEEK!
YEAH! DESE SMALL-TIME PUNKS KEEP TRYIN' TO TALK DE BIG GUY INTO SMALL-TIME JOBS, SO HE GETS INSULTED NATCHERLY!
CRASH
A SPARE DOOR IS PUT ON THE CLASPS, AND THEN A VOICE BOOMS...
CAPTAIN AMERICA, NEXT!
WELL, BUCKY, IT WAS NICE KNOWING YOU!

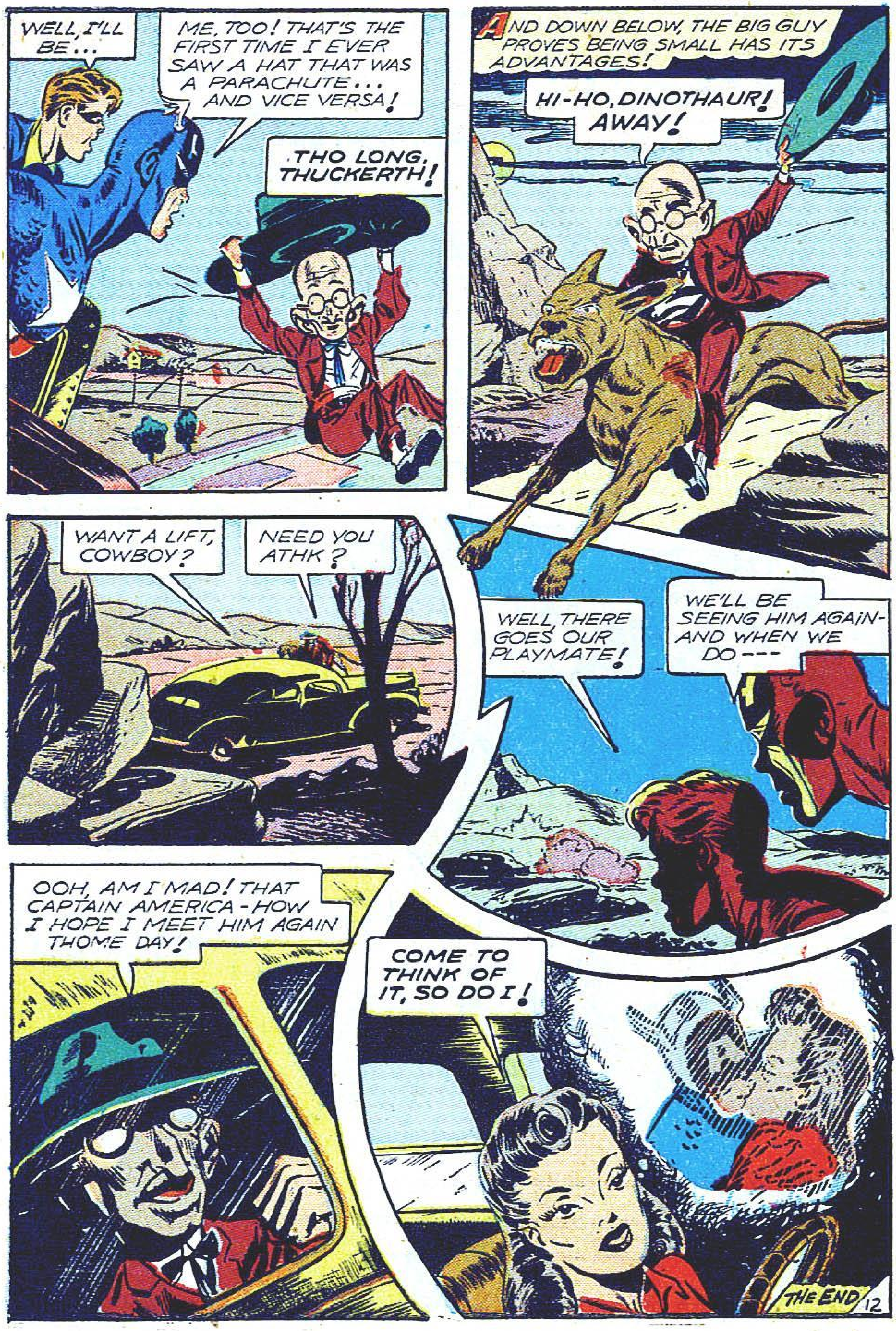

THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND CAP, AND SEATED INSIDE IS THE CRIMINAL TITAN -- THE BIG GUY!
COME CLOTHER, PLEATHE!
YOU... THE B-BIG GUY... HAW! HO... HA.. HA HA!
THO, YOU THINK IT'TH FUNNY, DO YOU?
THE BIG GUY'S FOREFINGER PRESSES A BUTTON ON HIS THRONE, A PARTITION SWINGS OPEN, AND . . .
A STONE FIST SENDS CAP HURTLING THROUGH SPACE!
TCH-TCH! ANUDDER DOOR! WE'RE GONNA RUN OUT OF 'EM! WE BETTA ORDER ANUDDER DOZEN - JUST IN CASE!
HE CAN'T DO THAT TO YOU - NOT TO YOU!
OOOH!
ONE SIDE, SHORTY! WHERE'S THE BIG GUY? I'M GOING TO CHOP HIM DOWN TO MY SIZE!
GET HIM, DINOTHAUR!


SPEAKIN' OF CHOPTH, DINOTHAUR IS LICKIN' HITH!
SO YA GOT HIM, BIG GUY!
YETH! NOW WE CAN BE THURE HE WON'T KITH YOU ANYMORE. HE CAN'T BUTT INTO THE LITTLE JOB I PLANNED FOR TONIGHT!
"LITTLE JOB? I THOUGHT THE BIG GUY HANDLES ONLY BIG JOBS?
WELL, YOU MIGHT CALL THITH ONE THE BIGGETHT JOB OF MODERN TIMETH BECAUTH OF THE TINIETHT THINGTH THERE ARE! QUITE A RIDDLE, EH? HE-HE!
OH! I'M GOING TO SNEEZE!
NOW FOR THE CATNIP I'VE PREPARED FOR THE BIG GUY'S DOG!
MAKE SURE IT'S YER HANKY YER REACHIN' FER!
AS CAP SNEEZES, A FINE DUST BILLOWS OUT OF HIS HANDKERCHIEF, AND...
AAGH CHOO!
SNIFF- SNIFF-
THEN THE DOG GOES CRAZY!
DE MUTT'S BESOIK!
ARF-ARF ARF! ARF!
MAD DOG! MAD DOG!


MAD DOG! LEMME OUT!
OKAY, PAL, YOU'RE OUT!
I DON'T HAVE TO CHOP YOU DOWN TO MY SIZE! SOMEBODY BEAT ME TO IT!
DON'T BOTHER GETTING UP!
OOPS!
OH, OH! HERE COMES THE THUNDERING HERD! LIGHTS, BUCKY! **LIGHTS!**
I'M ON MY WAY!
SOUNDS IN THE NIGHT!
OKAY! WISE GUY!
OOFF!
UGH!
GOTCHA!
OW!
AND WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON AGAIN-- LO AND BEHOLD!
NO, CUPIE, **NO!**
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THAT BUCKY BRAT!
TAKE DAT, CAPTAIN AMERICA!


DEY SCRAMMED!
AND WILL YA LOOK AT DINOSAUR? HE ACTS LIKE HE'S DRUNK!
HE ITH DRUNK.. ON POWDERED CATNIP! CAPTAIN AMERICA HAD IT ALL PREPARED IN HITH HANKY! OOH.. I'M THO MAD!
THOSE TWO GUYS KNOW OUR HIDEOUT! THEY'LL BE BACK WITH COPPERS!
TRUE, THEY KNOW OUR HIDEOUT- BUT WE HAVE A JOB ON FOR TONIGHT! THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ANTHWER MY RIDDLE!
MEANWHILE...
WELL, CAP, YOU KISSED US INTO THE HIDEOUT, AND SNEEZED US OUT! NOW WHAT?
THE BIG GUY WILL QUIT HIS HIDEOUT, BUT HE'LL FINISH THAT JOB HE PLANNED! "THE BIGGEST JOB IN THE WORLD BECAUSE OF THE TINIEST THINGS THEY ARE!" A CUTE PUZZLE!
JUST THEN!
THAT'S IT, BUCKY... THE ANSWER TO THE BIG GUY'S RIDDLE. ATOMS ARE THE TINIEST THINGS, BUT RIGHT NOW THE BIGGEST STORY OF MODERN TIMES. "LITTLE, BUT BIG-" A JOB JUST LIKE THE BIG GUY!
ATOMIC BOMB WILL IT SAVE MANKIND OR DESTROY IT?
REMEMBER THAT NEWS ITEM WE READ, ABOUT THE SILVER BULLION DELIVERED TO THE LOCAL ATOM SMASHER?
SURE, THEY'RE TRYING TO CHANGE SILVER'S ATOMIC STRUCTURE AND MAKE GOLD! I CATCH! THE BIG GUY IS GOING TO HIJACK THAT SILVER!
AND AT THE ATOM SMASHER, THE BIG GUY'S GANG STRIKES!
HEE-HEE! THITH ITH A THNAP! COME ON, GANG!


BUT CAP AND BUCKY ARRIVE AT THAT MOMENT!
AND NOW WE'LL DO SOME SMASHING, AND IT WON'T BE ATOMS!
PETE! MIKE! JOE!
OH-OH! THE MOB SCENE AGAIN!
MY GLOVES ARE MADE OF NON-CONDUCTING MATERIAL-SO I CAN RISK THIS!
CAP DROPS THE LIVE WIRE, AND ELECTRICITY RACES THROUGH THE METAL FLOOR, SHOCKING THE THUGS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!
CAP! THERE GOES THE BIG GUY!
SO HE WAS WEARING RUBBER SOLES AND HEELS TOO! C'MON!
PUFF-PUFF! WHAT A CLIMB! I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT MY ALPIN-STOCK!
NO-NO! DON'T BE A FOOL! DON'T!
WE'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED! CAP! HE'S GOING TO JUMP!


WELL, I'LL BE...
ME, TOO! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW A HAT THAT WAS A PARACHUTE... AND VICE VERSA!
THO LONG, THUCKERTH!
AND DOWN BELOW, THE BIG GUY PROVES BEING SMALL HAS ITS ADVANTAGES!
HI-HO, DINOTHAUR! AWAY!
WANT A LIFT, COWBOY?
NEED YOU ATHK?
WELL, THERE GOES OUR PLAYMATE!
WE'LL BE SEEING HIM AGAIN-AND WHEN WE DO---
OOH, AM I MAD! THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA - HOW I HOPE I MEET HIM AGAIN THOME DAY!
COME TO THINK OF IT, SO DO I!
THE END

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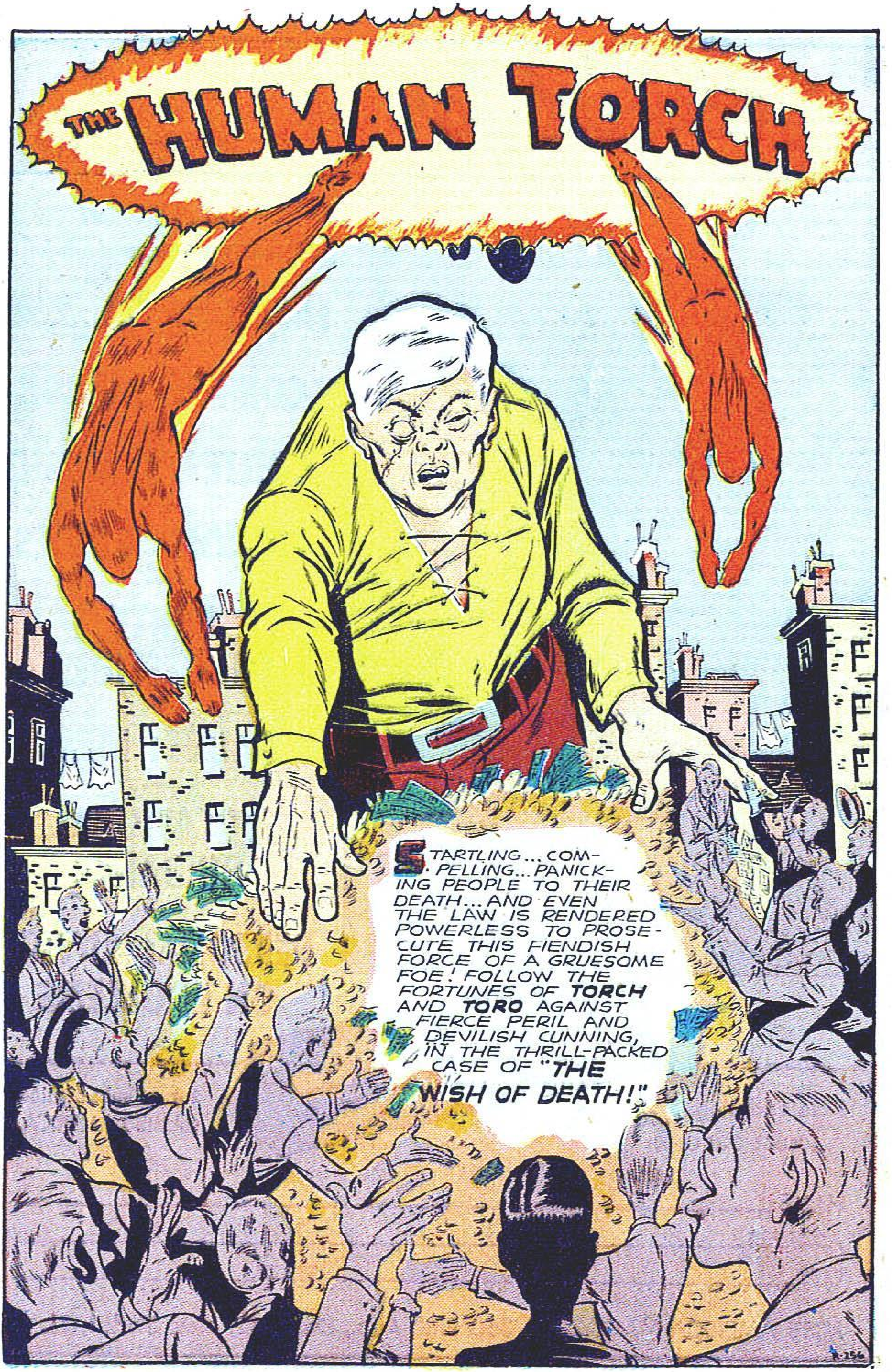
THE HUMAN TORCH
STARTLING... COMPELLING... PANICKING PEOPLE TO THEIR DEATH... AND EVEN THE LAW IS RENDERED POWERLESS TO PROSECUTE THIS FIENDISH FORCE OF A GRUESOME FOE! FOLLOW THE FORTUNES OF TORCH AND TORO AGAINST FIERCE PERIL AND DEVILISH CUNNING, IN THE THRILL-PACKED CASE OF "THE WISH OF DEATH!"
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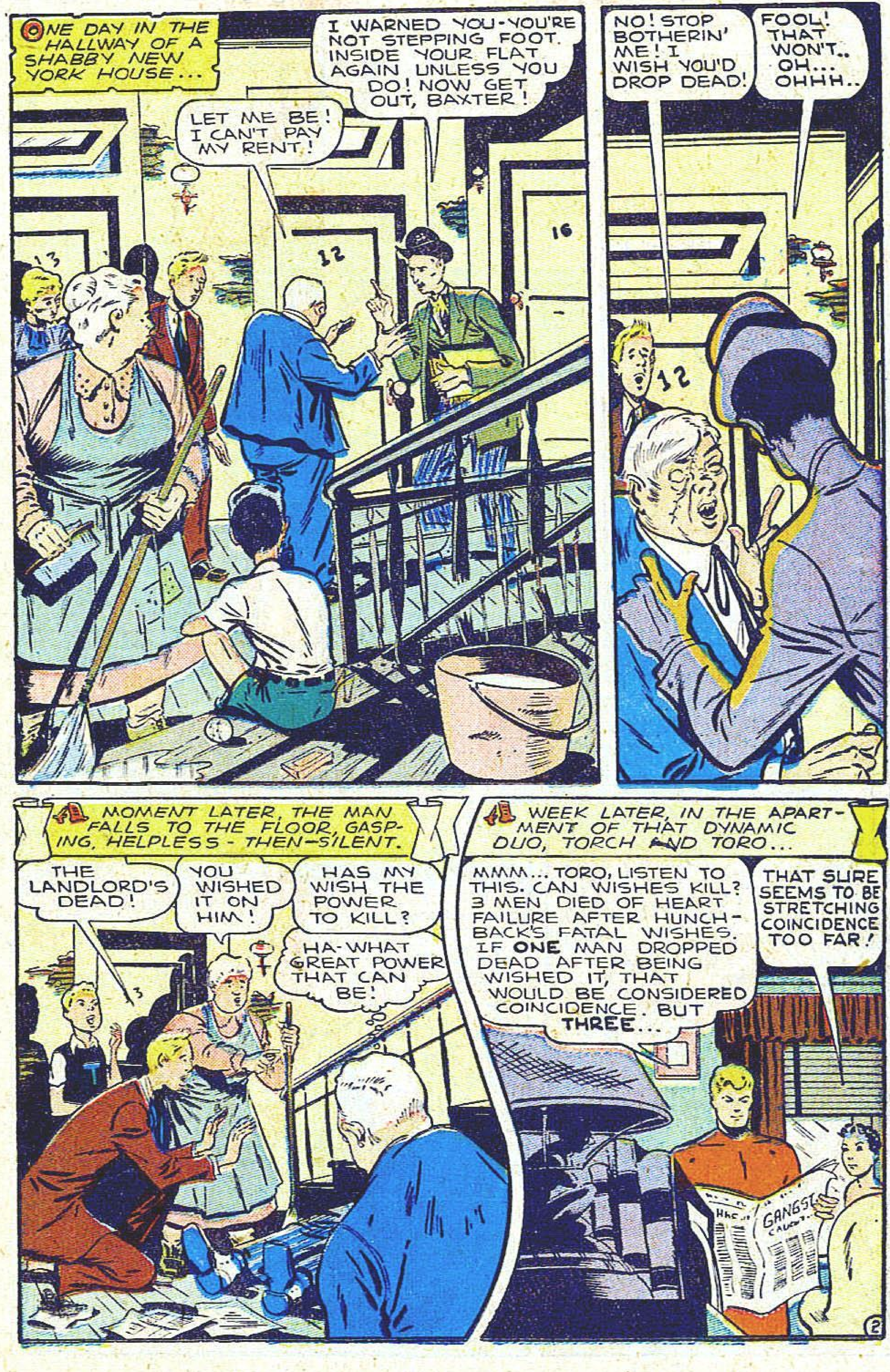
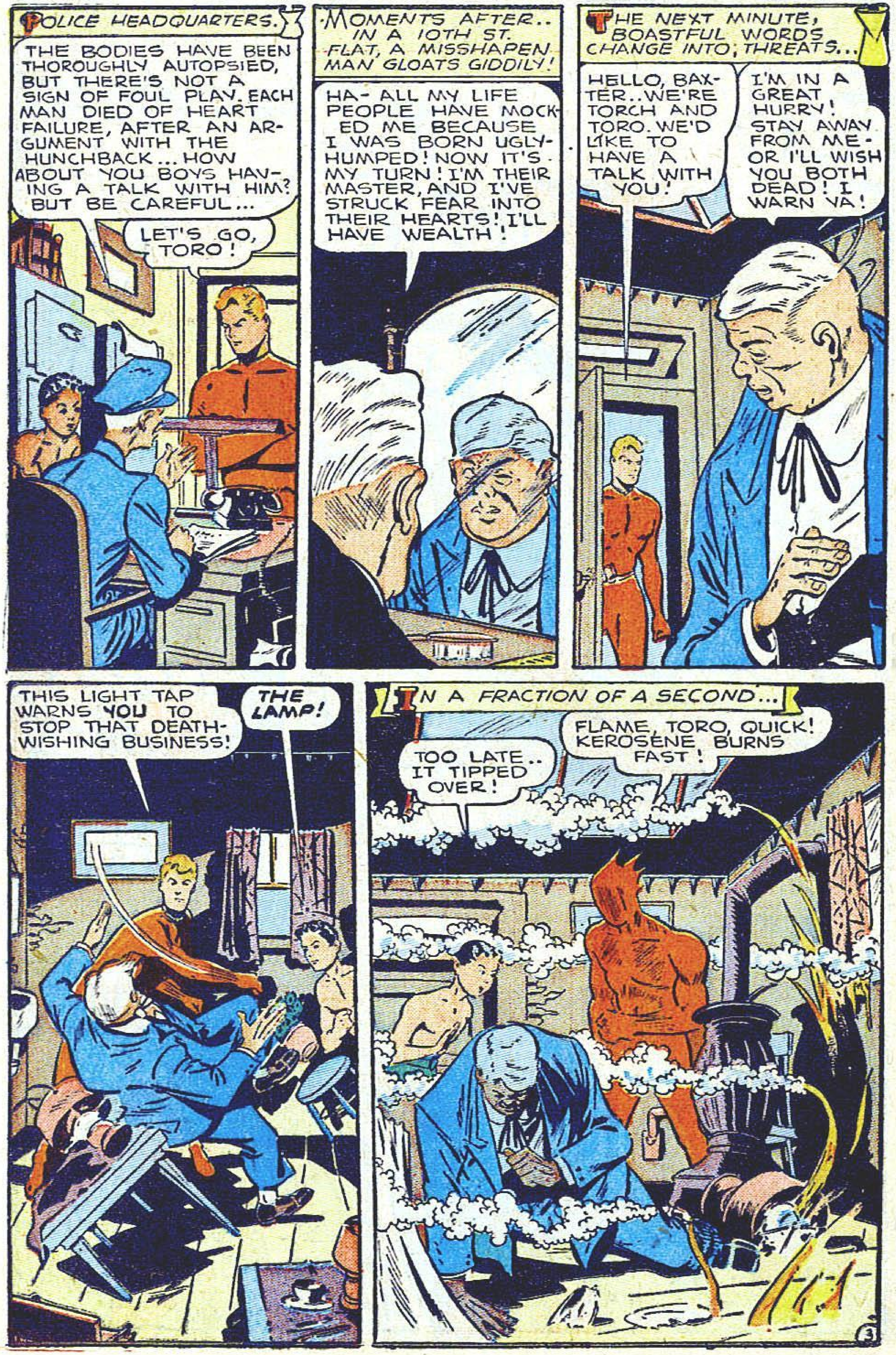
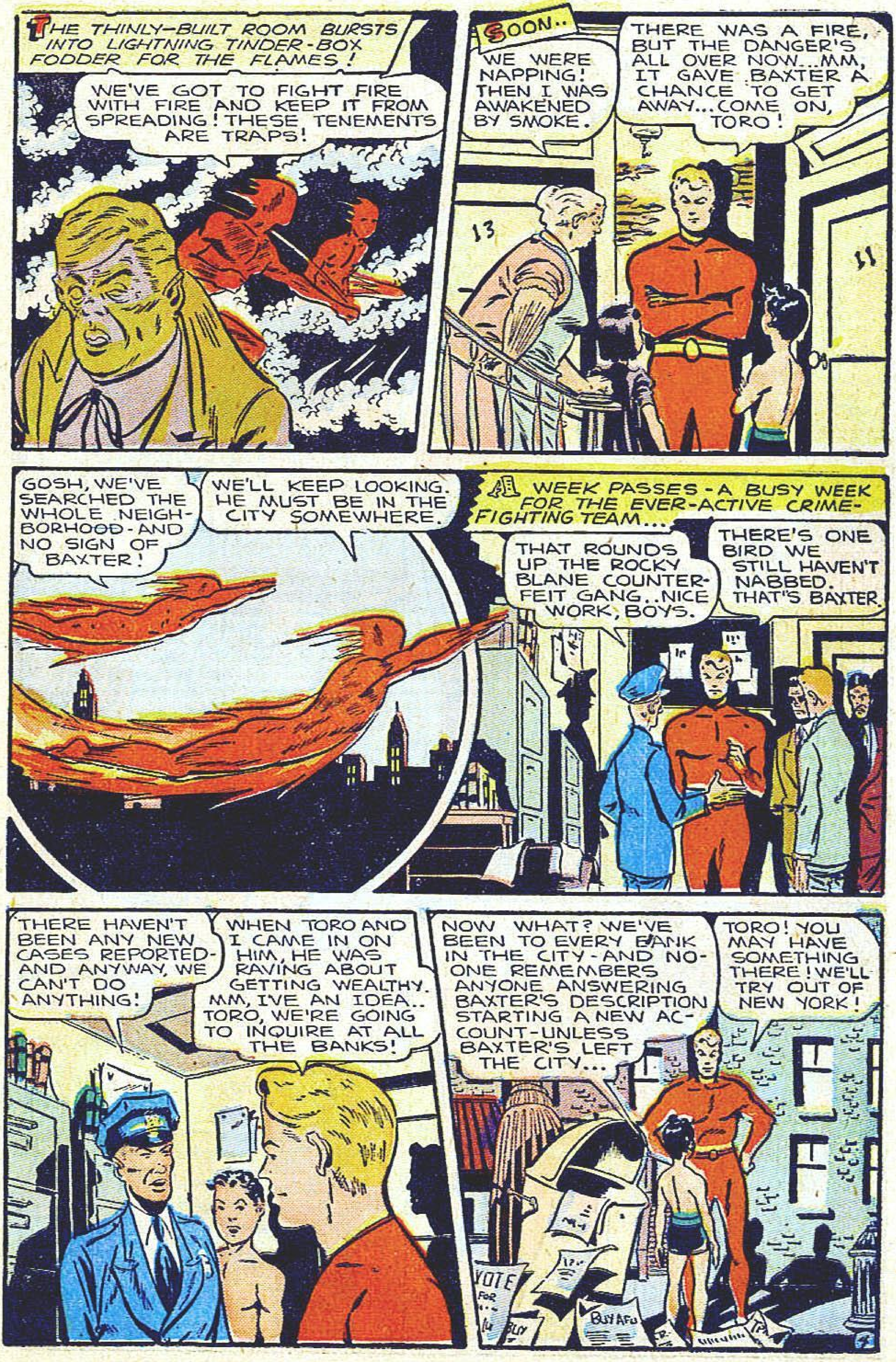
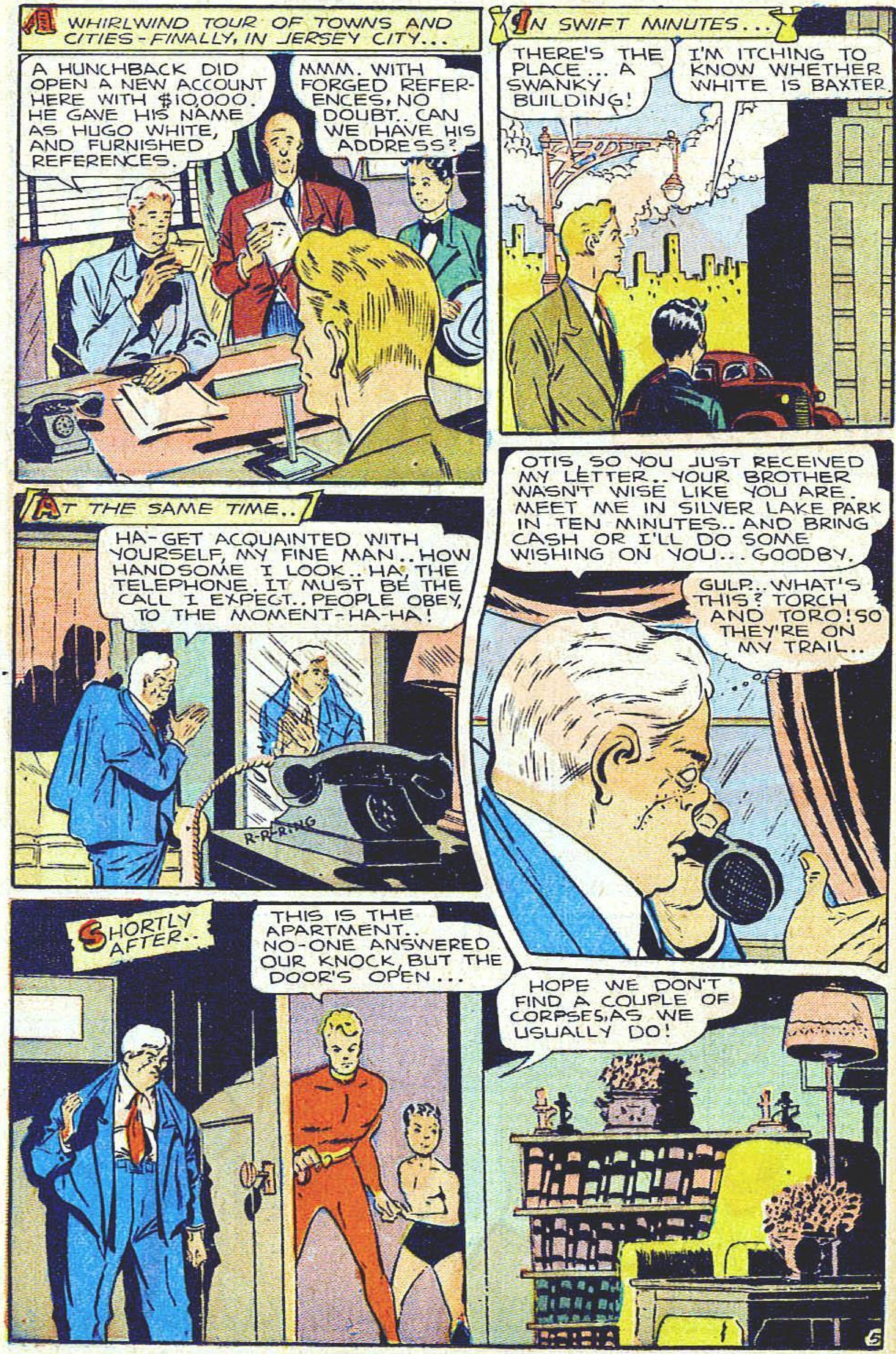
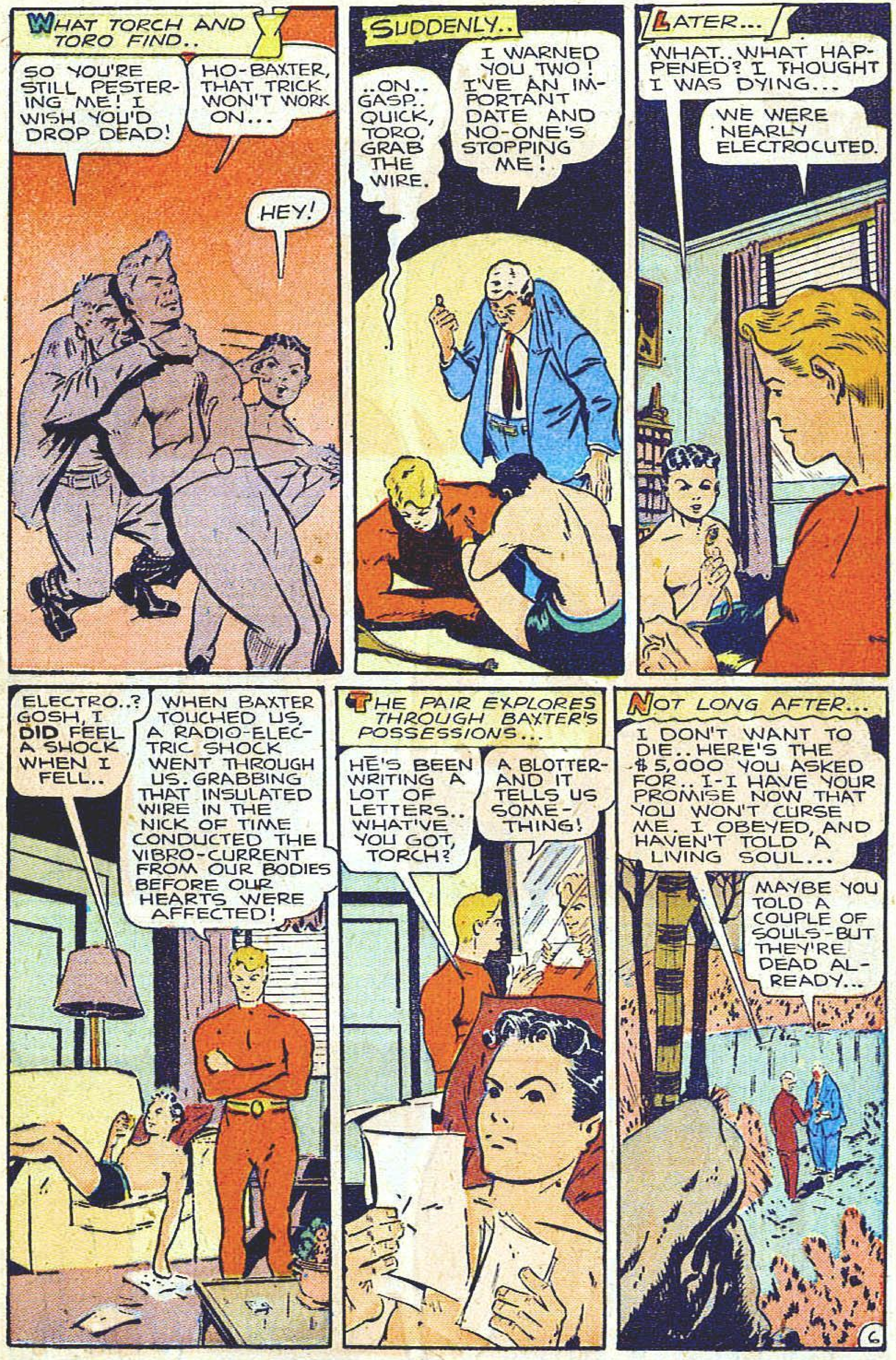
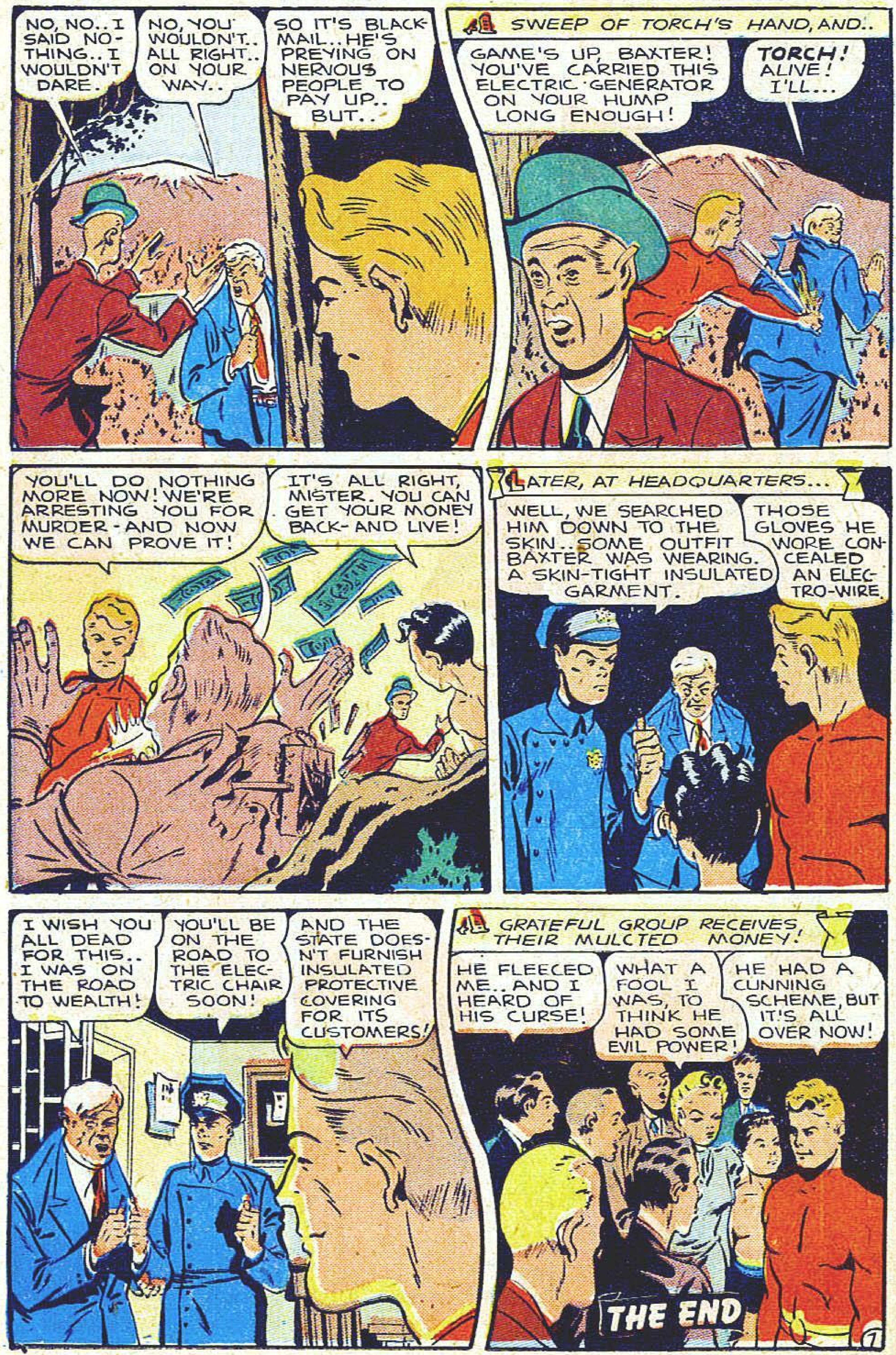

ONE DAY IN THE HALLWAY OF A SHABBY NEW YORK HOUSE...
I WARNED YOU-YOU'RE NOT STEPPING FOOT INSIDE YOUR FLAT AGAIN UNLESS YOU DO! NOW GET OUT, BAXTER!
LET ME BE! I CAN'T PAY MY RENT!
13
12
16
NO! STOP BOTHERIN' ME! I WISH YOU'D DROP DEAD!
FOOL! THAT WON'T.. OH... OHHH..
12
A MOMENT LATER, THE MAN FALLS TO THE FLOOR, GASPING, HELPLESS - THEN-SILENT.
THE LANDLORD'S DEAD!
YOU WISHED IT ON HIM!
HAS MY WISH THE POWER TO KILL?
HA-WHAT GREAT POWER THAT CAN BE!
A WEEK LATER, IN THE APARTMENT OF THAT DYNAMIC DUO, TORCH AND TORO...
MMM... TORO, LISTEN TO THIS. CAN WISHES KILL? 3 MEN DIED OF HEART FAILURE AFTER HUNCHBACK'S FATAL WISHES. IF ONE MAN DROPPED DEAD AFTER BEING WISHED IT, THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED COINCIDENCE. BUT THREE...
THAT SURE SEEMS TO BE STRETCHING COINCIDENCE TOO FAR!
GANGST

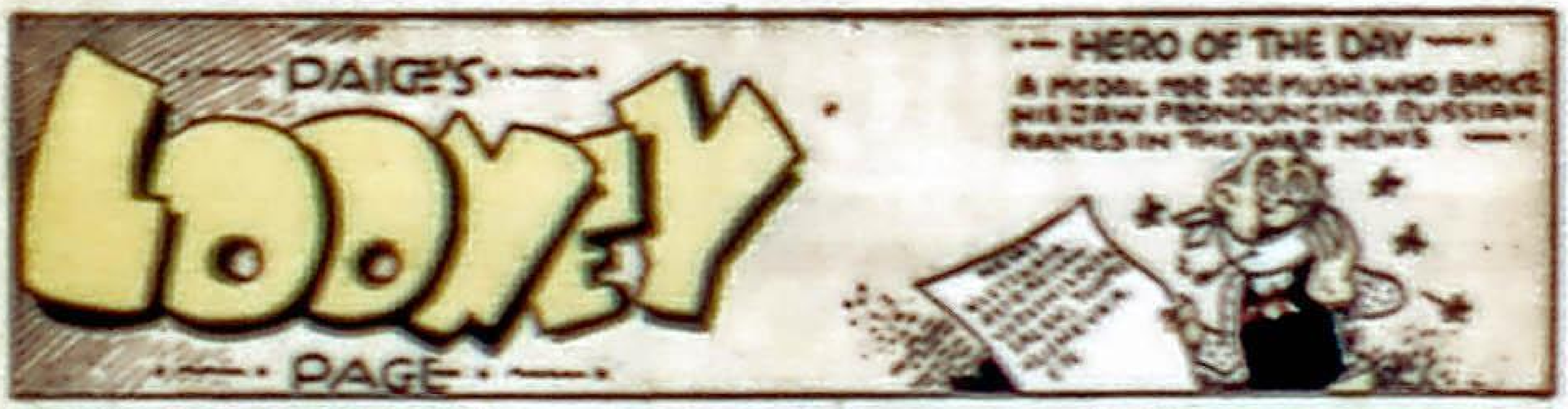

POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
THE BODIES HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY AUTOPSIED, BUT THERE'S NOT A SIGN OF FOUL PLAY. EACH MAN DIED OF HEART FAILURE, AFTER AN ARGUMENT WITH THE HUNCHBACK... HOW ABOUT YOU BOYS HAVING A TALK WITH HIM? BUT BE CAREFUL...
LET'S GO, TORO!
MOMENTS AFTER.. IN A 10TH ST. FLAT, A MISSHAPEN MAN GLOATS GIDDILY!
HA- ALL MY LIFE PEOPLE HAVE MOCKED ME BECAUSE I WAS BORN UGLY-HUMPED! NOW IT'S MY TURN! I'M THEIR MASTER, AND I'VE STRUCK FEAR INTO THEIR HEARTS! I'LL HAVE WEALTH!
THE NEXT MINUTE, BOASTFUL WORDS CHANGE INTO THREATS...
HELLO, BAXTER.. WE'RE TORCH AND TORO. WE'D LIKE TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU!
I'M IN A GREAT HURRY! STAY AWAY FROM ME- OR I'LL WISH YOU BOTH DEAD! I WARN YA!
THIS LIGHT TAP WARNS **YOU** TO STOP THAT DEATH-WISHING BUSINESS!
THE LAMP!
IN A FRACTION OF A SECOND...
TOO LATE.. IT TIPPED OVER!
FLAME, TORO, QUICK! KEROSENE BURNS FAST!

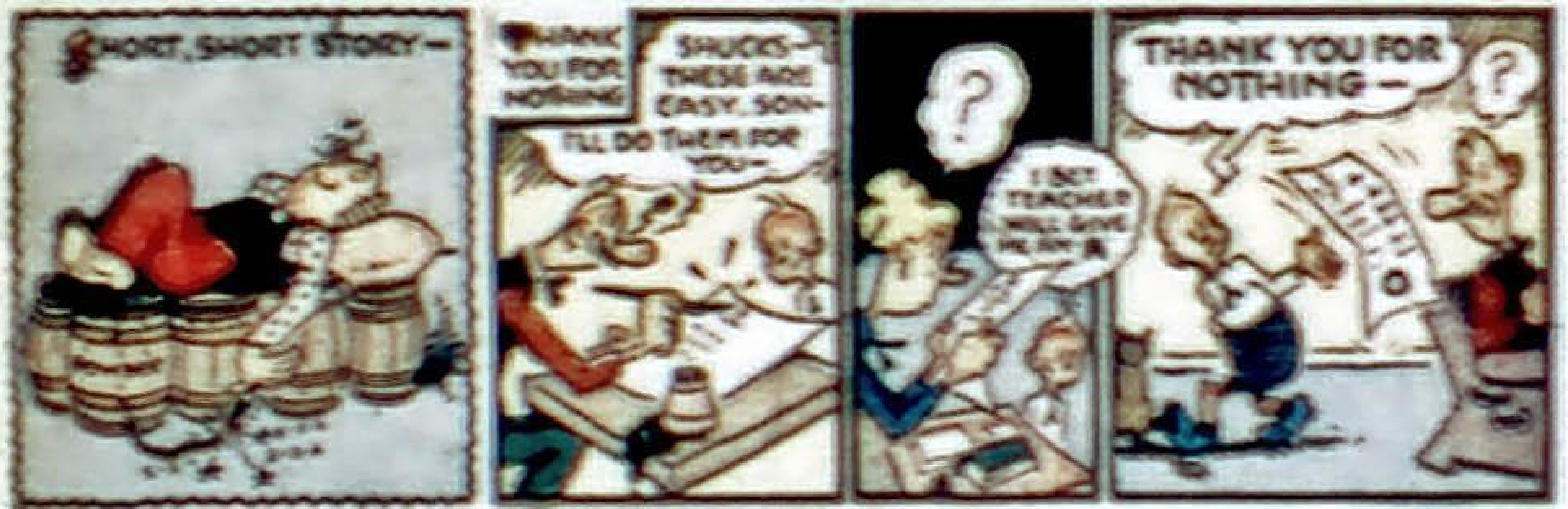

THE THINLY-BUILT ROOM BURSTS INTO LIGHTNING TINDER-BOX FODDER FOR THE FLAMES!
WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE AND KEEP IT FROM SPREADING! THESE TENEMENTS ARE TRAPS!
SOON..
WE WERE NAPPING! THEN I WAS AWAKENED BY SMOKE.
THERE WAS A FIRE, BUT THE DANGER'S ALL OVER NOW...MM, IT GAVE BAXTER A CHANCE TO GET AWAY...COME ON, TORO!
13
11
GOSH, WE'VE SEARCHED THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD-AND NO SIGN OF BAXTER!
WE'LL KEEP LOOKING. HE MUST BE IN THE CITY SOMEWHERE.
A WEEK PASSES - A BUSY WEEK FOR THE EVER-ACTIVE CRIME-FIGHTING TEAM...
THAT ROUNDS UP THE ROCKY BLANE COUNTERFEIT GANG..NICE WORK, BOYS.
THERE'S ONE BIRD WE STILL HAVEN'T NABBED. THAT'S BAXTER.
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY NEW CASES REPORTED-AND ANYWAY, WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING!
WHEN TORO AND I CAME IN ON HIM, HE WAS RAVING ABOUT GETTING WEALTHY. MM, IVE AN IDEA.. TORO, WE'RE GOING TO INQUIRE AT ALL THE BANKS!
NOW WHAT? WE'VE BEEN TO EVERY BANK IN THE CITY-AND NO-ONE REMEMBERS ANYONE ANSWERING BAXTER'S DESCRIPTION STARTING A NEW ACCOUNT-UNLESS BAXTER'S LEFT THE CITY...
TORO! YOU MAY HAVE SOMETHING THERE! WE'LL TRY OUT OF NEW YORK!
VOTE FOR
BUY A FU

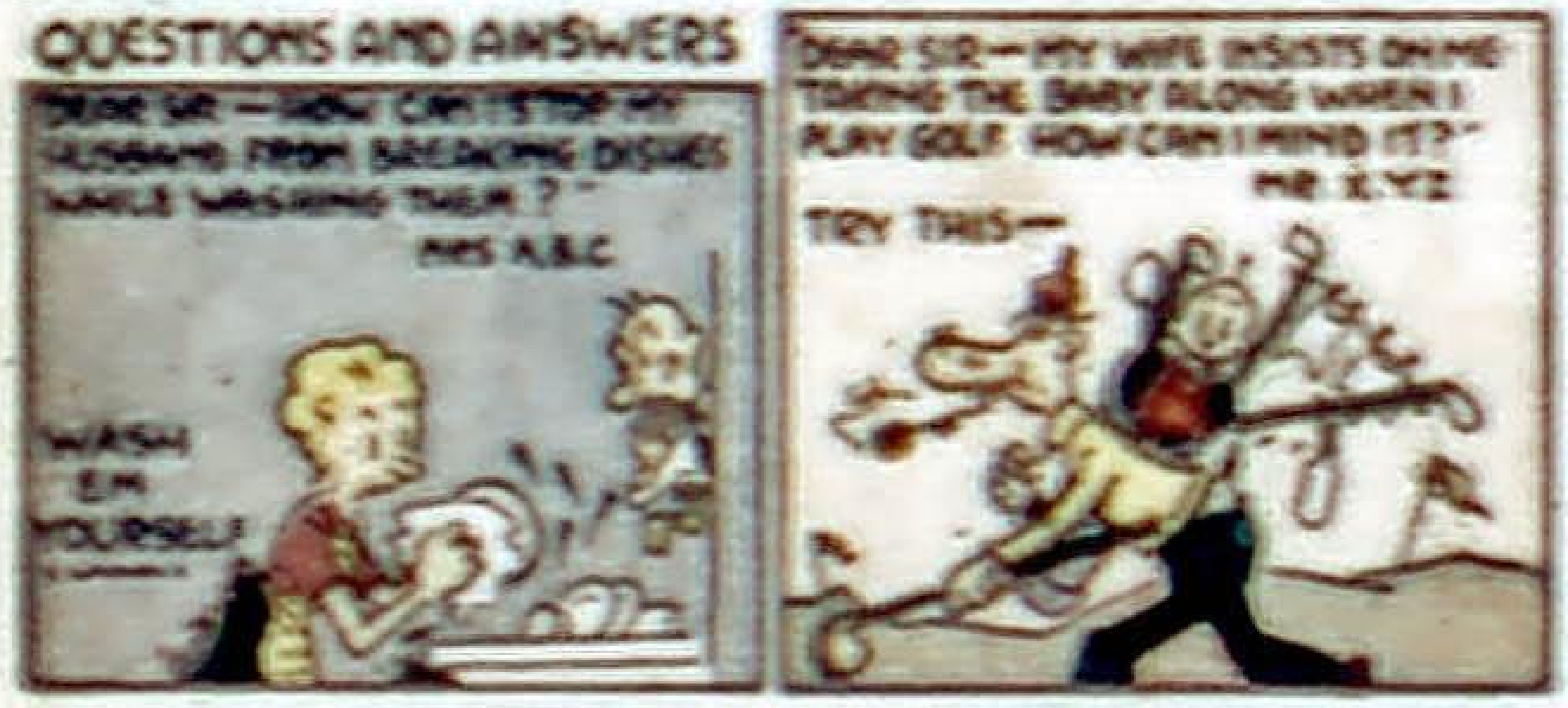

A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF TOWNS AND CITIES - FINALLY, IN JERSEY CITY...
A HUNCHBACK DID OPEN A NEW ACCOUNT HERE WITH $10,000. HE GAVE HIS NAME AS HUGO WHITE, AND FURNISHED REFERENCES.
MMM. WITH FORGED REFERENCES, NO DOUBT.. CAN WE HAVE HIS ADDRESS?
IN SWIFT MINUTES...
THERE'S THE PLACE... A SWANKY BUILDING!
I'M ITCHING TO KNOW WHETHER WHITE IS BAXTER.
AT THE SAME TIME..
HA-GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOURSELF, MY FINE MAN.. HOW HANDSOME I LOOK.. HA, THE TELEPHONE. IT MUST BE THE CALL I EXPECT.. PEOPLE OBEY, TO THE MOMENT-HA-HA!
R-R-RING
OTIS, SO YOU JUST RECEIVED MY LETTER.. YOUR BROTHER WASN'T WISE LIKE YOU ARE. MEET ME IN SILVER LAKE PARK IN TEN MINUTES.. AND BRING CASH OR I'LL DO SOME WISHING ON YOU... GOODBY.
GULP.. WHAT'S THIS? TORCH AND TORO! SO THEY'RE ON MY TRAIL..
SHORTLY AFTER..
THIS IS THE APARTMENT.. NO-ONE ANSWERED OUR KNOCK, BUT THE DOOR'S OPEN...
HOPE WE DON'T FIND A COUPLE OF CORPSES, AS WE USUALLY DO!

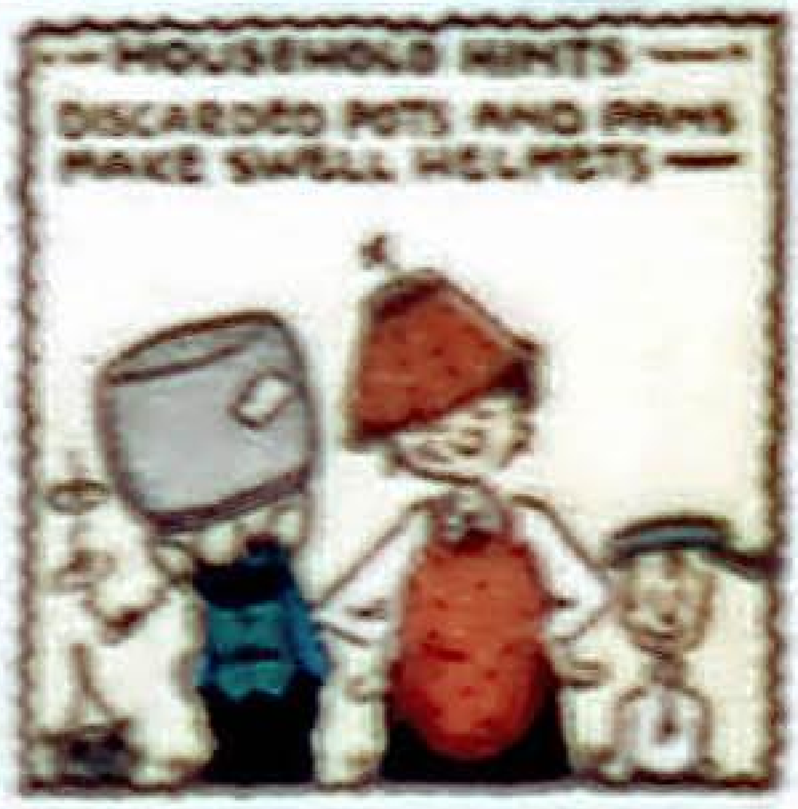

WHAT TORCH AND TORO FIND..
SO YOU'RE STILL PESTERING ME! I WISH YOU'D DROP DEAD!
HO-BAXTER, THAT TRICK WON'T WORK ON...
HEY!
SUDDENLY..
..ON.. GASP.. QUICK, TORO, GRAB THE WIRE.
I WARNED YOU TWO! I'VE AN IMPORTANT DATE AND NO-ONE'S STOPPING ME!
LATER...
WHAT.. WHAT HAPPENED? I THOUGHT I WAS DYING...
WE WERE NEARLY ELECTROCUTED.
ELECTRO..? GOSH, I DID FEEL A SHOCK WHEN I FELL..
WHEN BAXTER TOUCHED US, A RADIO-ELECTRIC SHOCK WENT THROUGH US. GRABBING THAT INSULATED WIRE IN THE NICK OF TIME CONDUCTED THE VIBRO-CURRENT FROM OUR BODIES BEFORE OUR HEARTS WERE AFFECTED!
THE PAIR EXPLORES THROUGH BAXTER'S POSSESSIONS...
HE'S BEEN WRITING A LOT OF LETTERS.. WHAT'VE YOU GOT, TORCH?
A BLOTTER-AND IT TELLS US SOMETHING!
NOT LONG AFTER...
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.. HERE'S THE $5,000 YOU ASKED FOR.. I-I HAVE YOUR PROMISE NOW THAT YOU WON'T CURSE ME. I OBEYED, AND HAVEN'T TOLD A LIVING SOUL...
MAYBE YOU TOLD A COUPLE OF SOULS-BUT THEY'RE DEAD ALREADY...

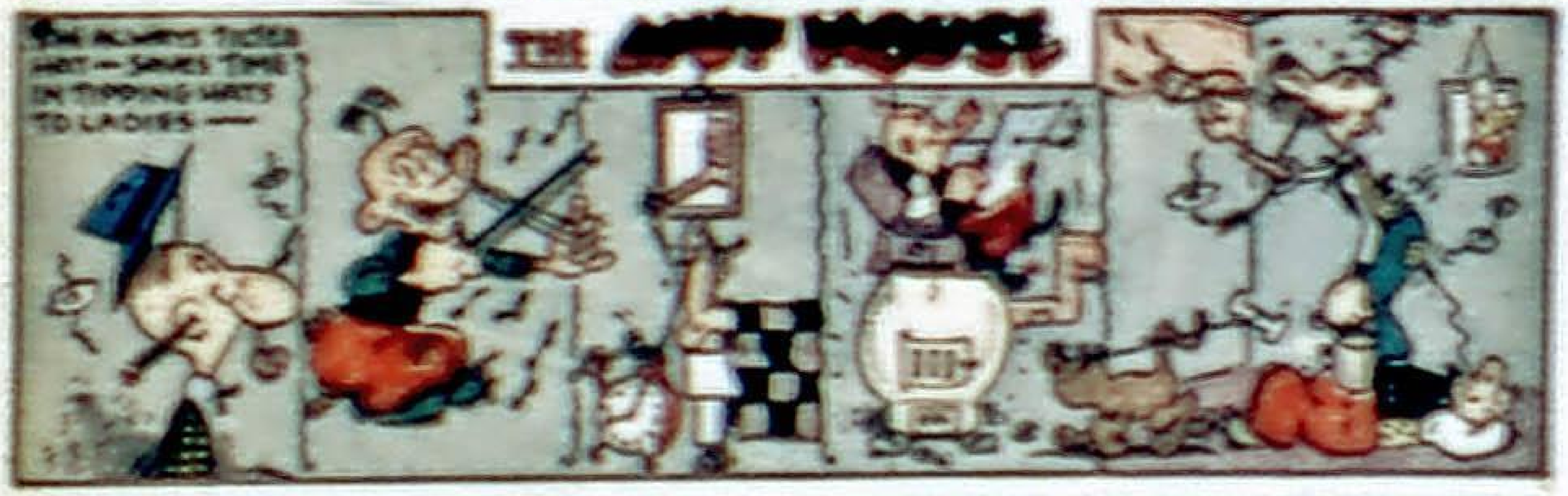

NO, NO.. I SAID NOTHING.. I WOULDN'T DARE.
NO, YOU WOULDN'T.. ALL RIGHT.. ON YOUR WAY..
SO IT'S BLACKMAIL.. HE'S PREYING ON NERVOUS PEOPLE TO PAY UP.. BUT..
SWEEP OF TORCH'S HAND, AND..
GAME'S UP, BAXTER! YOU'VE CARRIED THIS ELECTRIC GENERATOR ON YOUR HUMP LONG ENOUGH!
TORCH! ALIVE! I'LL...
YOU'LL DO NOTHING MORE NOW! WE'RE ARRESTING YOU FOR MURDER - AND NOW WE CAN PROVE IT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MISTER. YOU CAN GET YOUR MONEY BACK - AND LIVE!
LATER, AT HEADQUARTERS...
WELL, WE SEARCHED HIM DOWN TO THE SKIN.. SOME OUTFIT BAXTER WAS WEARING. A SKIN-TIGHT INSULATED GARMENT.
THOSE GLOVES HE WORE CONCEALED AN ELECTRO-WIRE.
I WISH YOU ALL DEAD FOR THIS.. I WAS ON THE ROAD TO WEALTH!
YOU'LL BE ON THE ROAD TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR SOON!
AND THE STATE DOESN'T FURNISH INSULATED PROTECTIVE COVERING FOR ITS CUSTOMERS!
GRATEFUL GROUP RECEIVES THEIR MULCTED MONEY!
HE FLEECED ME.. AND I HEARD OF HIS CURSE!
WHAT A FOOL I WAS, TO THINK HE HAD SOME EVIL POWER!
HE HAD A CUNNING SCHEME, BUT IT'S ALL OVER NOW!
THE END

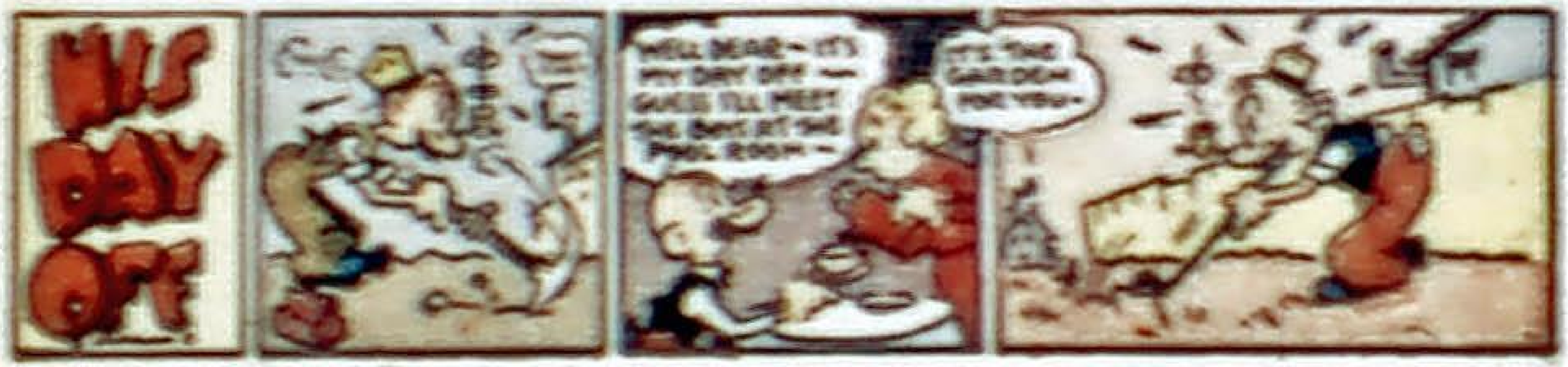

PAIGE'S
LOONEY
PAGE
— HERO OF THE DAY —
A MEDAL FOR JOE MUSH WHO BROKE HIS JAW PRONOUNCING RUSSIAN NAMES IN THE WAR NEWS —


SHORT, SHORT STORY —
THANK YOU FOR NOTHING
SHUCKS— THESE ARE EASY, SON— I'LL DO THEM FOR YOU—
?
I BET TEACHER WILL GIVE ME AN A
THANK YOU FOR NOTHING —
?

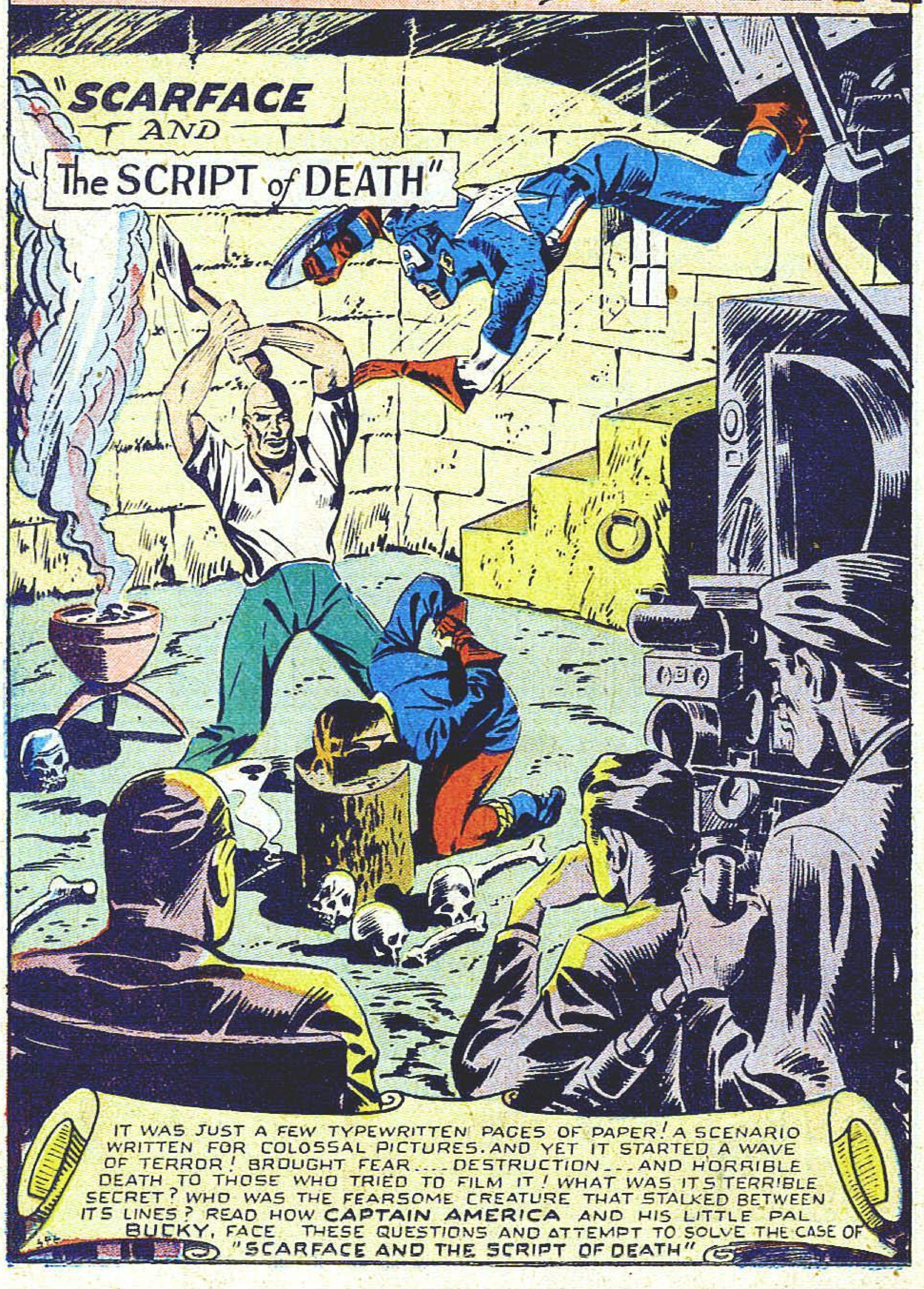

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
"DEAR SIR — HOW CAN I STOP MY HUSBAND FROM BREAKING DISHES WHILE WASHING THEM ?"
MRS A.B.C.
WASH 'EM YOURSELF
"DEAR SIR — MY WIFE INSISTS ON ME TAKING THE BABY ALONG WHEN I PLAY GOLF. HOW CAN I MIND IT?"
MR X.Y.Z.
TRY THIS —


— HOUSEHOLD HINTS —
DISCARDED POTS AND PANS MAKE SWELL HELMETS —


THE
HE ALWAYS TIPS HIS HAT — SAVES TIME IN TIPPING HATS TO LADIES —
10¢

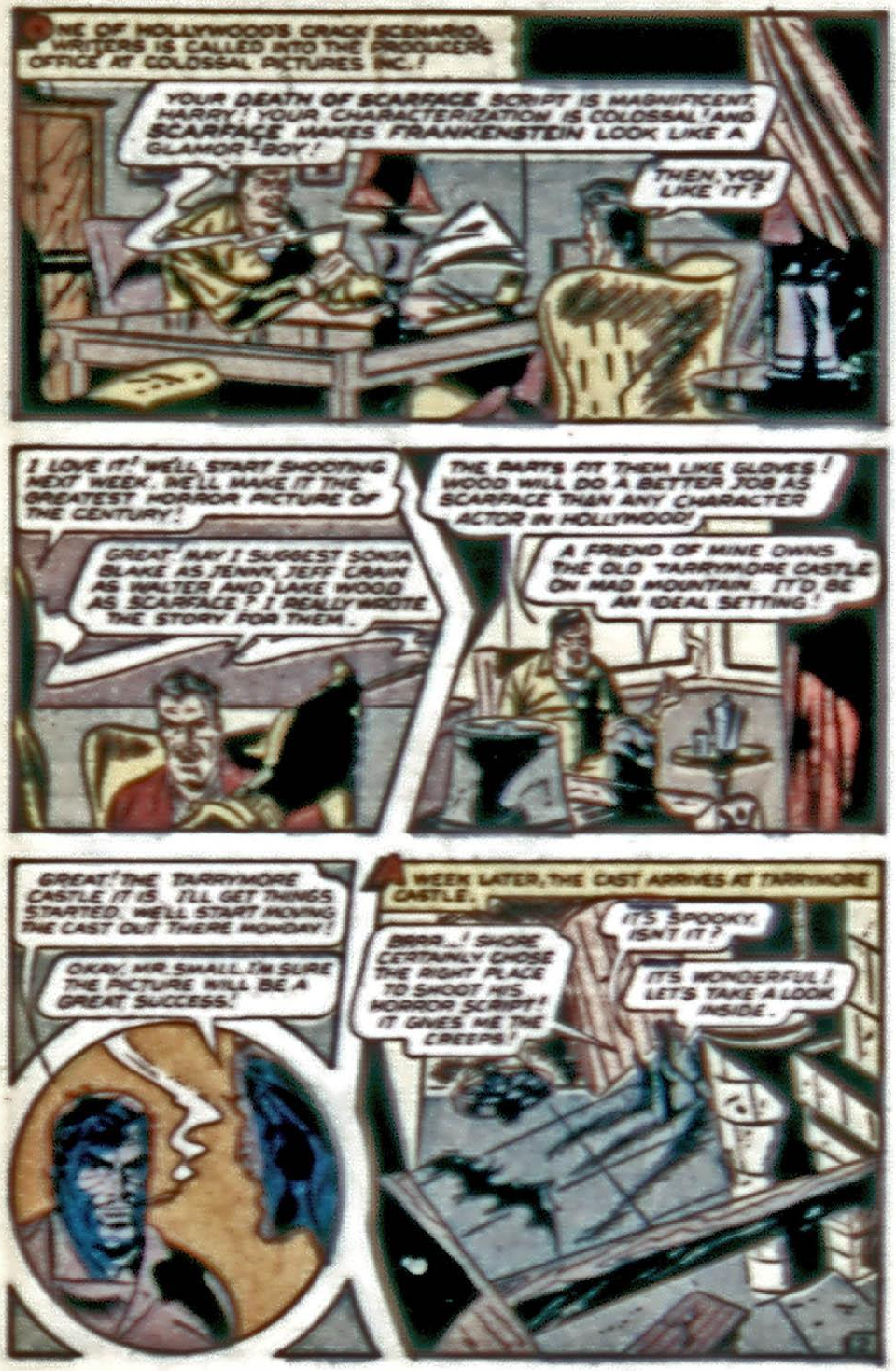

HIS DAY OFF
WELL DEAR — IT'S MY DAY OFF — GUESS I'LL MEET THE BOYS AT THE POOL ROOM —
IT'S THE GARDEN FOR YOU —

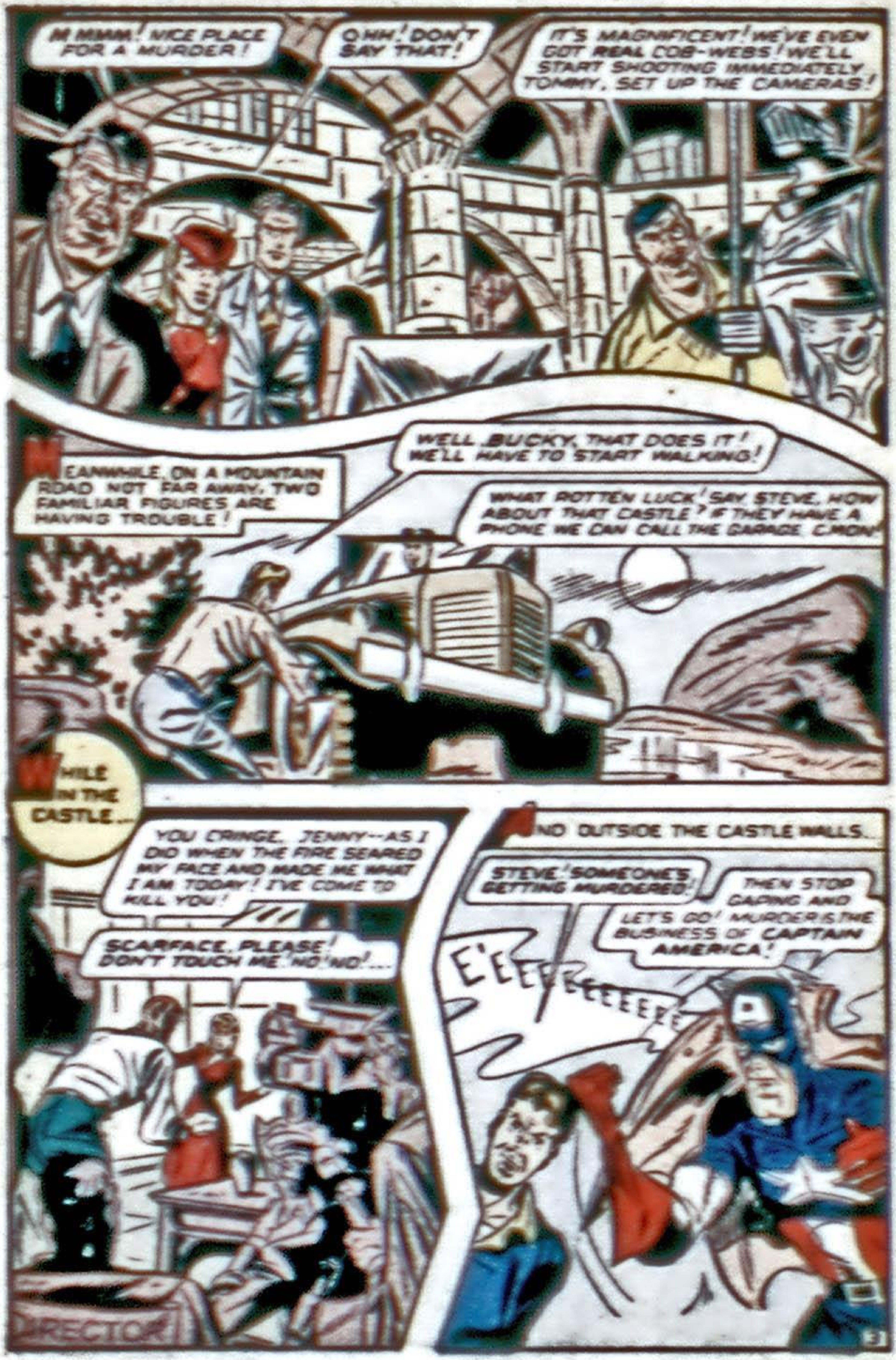
CAPTAIN AMERICA

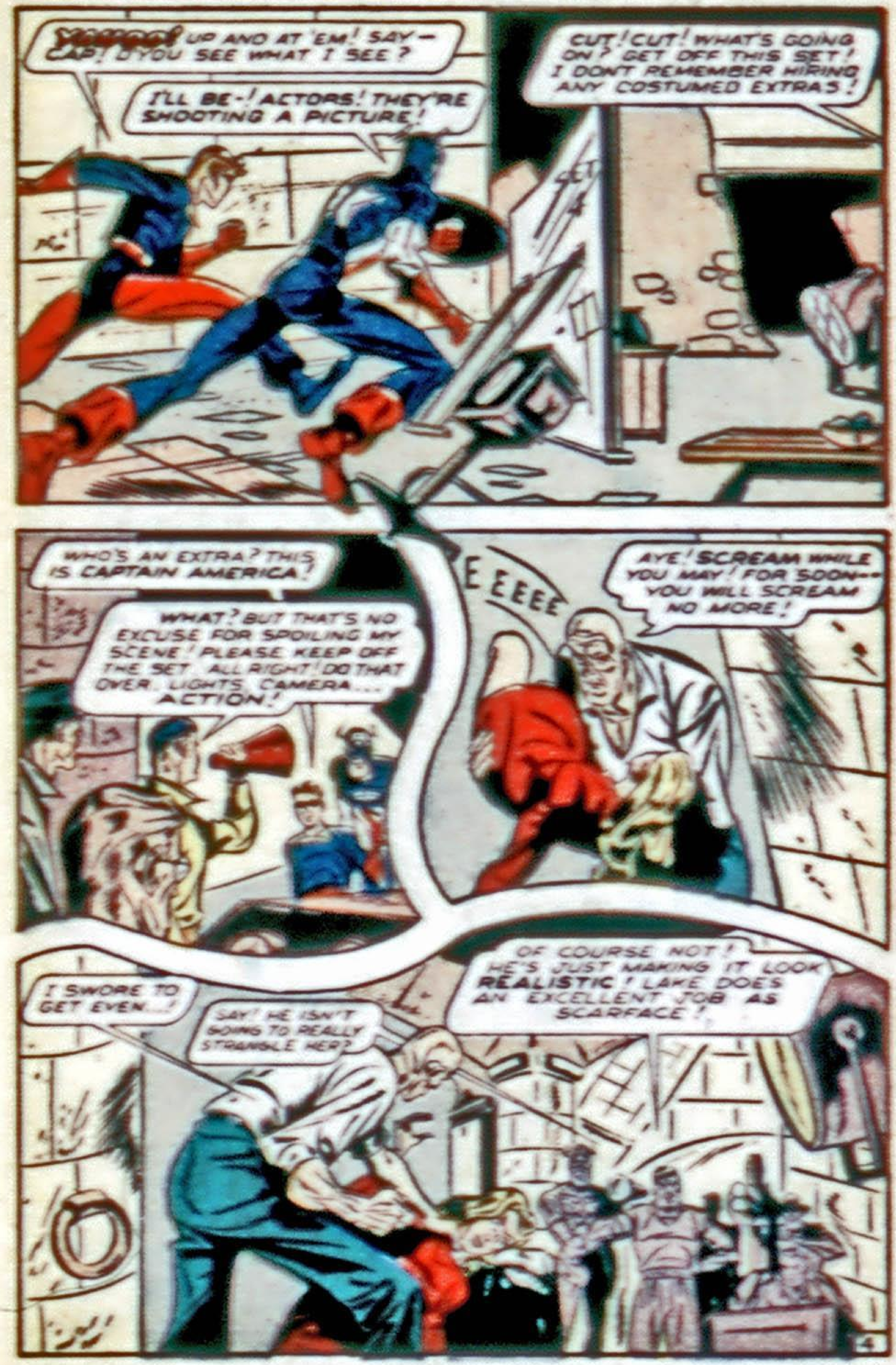


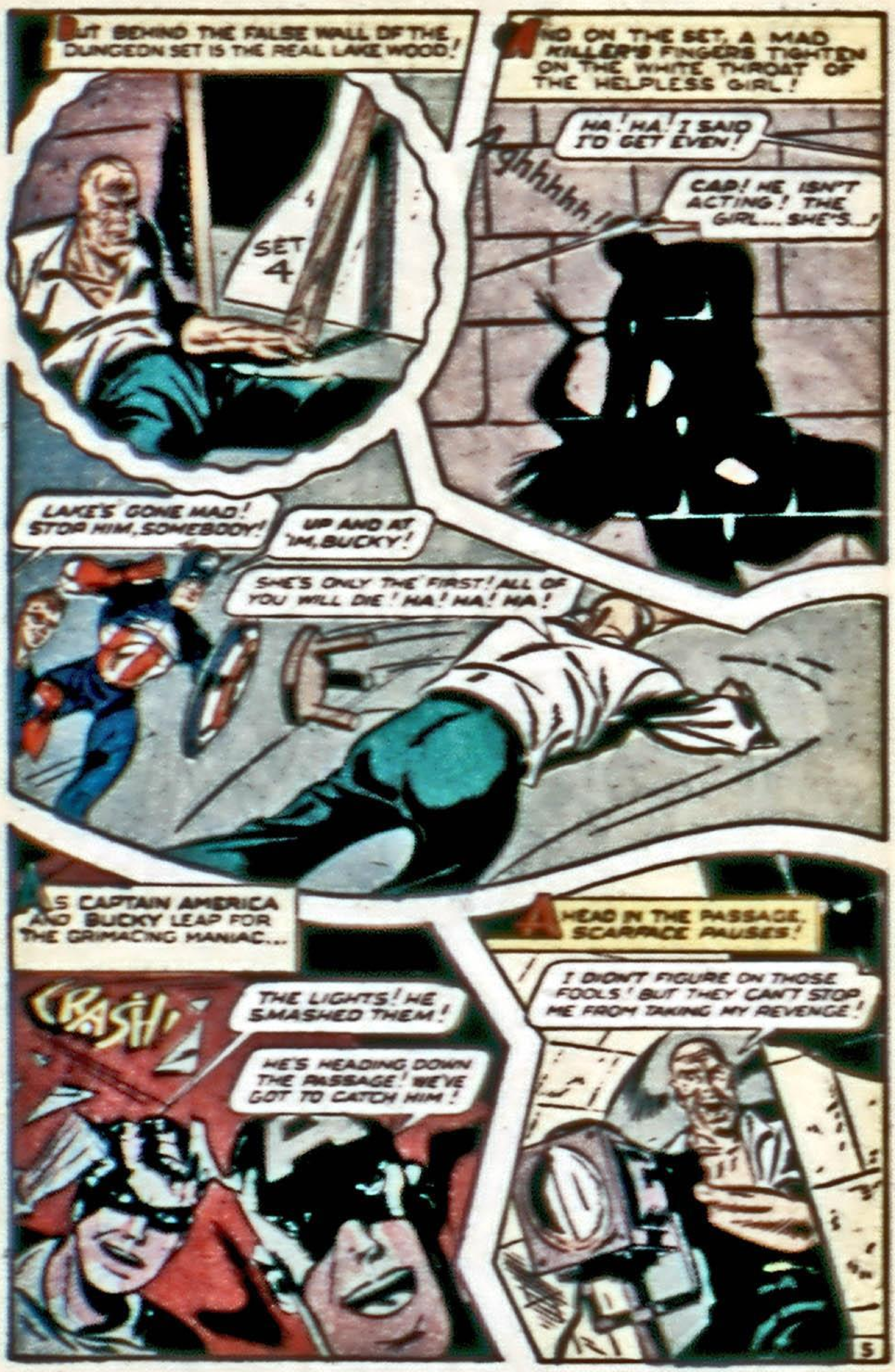
"SCARFACE AND The SCRIPT of DEATH"

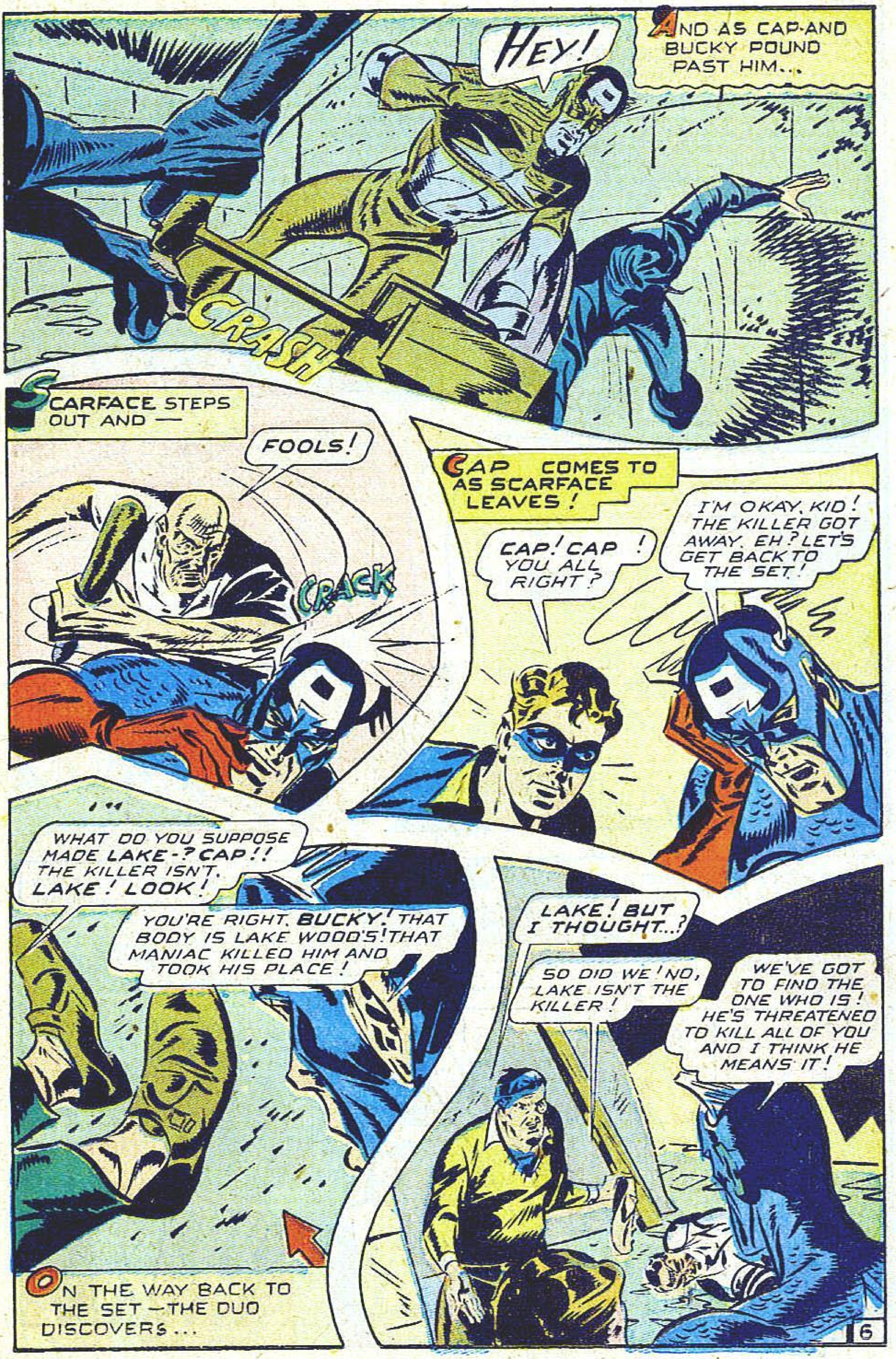
IT WAS JUST A FEW TYPEWRITTEN PAGES OF PAPER! A SCENARIO WRITTEN FOR COLOSSAL PICTURES. AND YET IT STARTED A WAVE OF TERROR! BROUGHT FEAR.... DESTRUCTION... AND HORRIBLE DEATH TO THOSE WHO TRIED TO FILM IT! WHAT WAS ITS TERRIBLE SECRET? WHO WAS THE FEARSOME CREATURE THAT STALKED BETWEEN ITS LINES? READ HOW **CAPTAIN AMERICA** AND HIS LITTLE PAL BUCKY, FACE THESE QUESTIONS AND ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE CASE OF "SCARFACE AND THE SCRIPT OF DEATH"

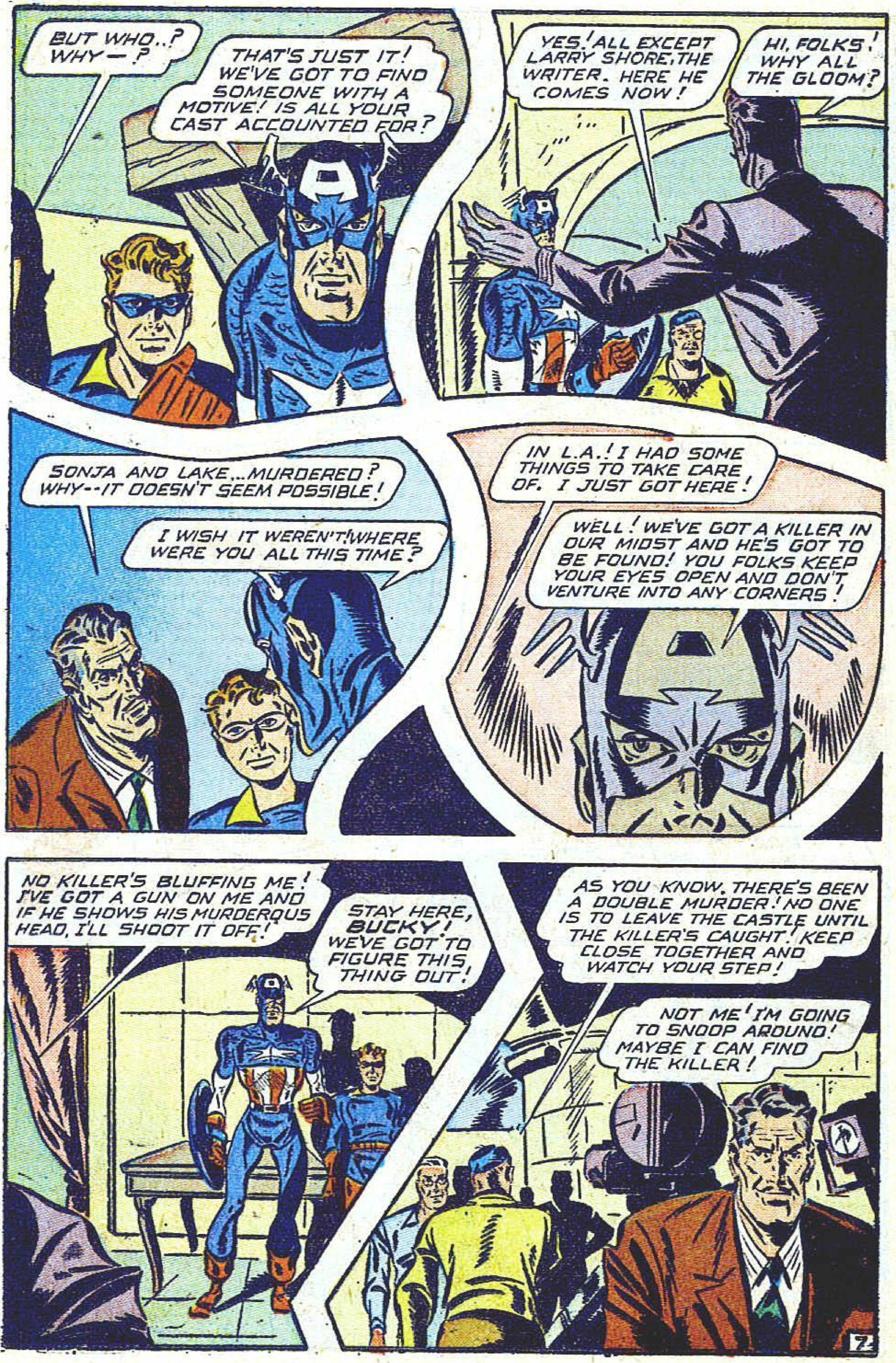

ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S CRACK SCENARIO WRITERS IS CALLED INTO THE PRODUCER'S OFFICE AT COLOSSAL PICTURES INC.!
YOUR DEATH OF SCARFACE SCRIPT IS MAGNIFICENT, HARRY! YOUR CHARACTERIZATION IS COLOSSAL! AND SCARFACE MAKES FRANKENSTEIN LOOK LIKE A GLAMOR-BOY!
THEN, YOU LIKE IT?
I LOVE IT! WE'LL START SHOOTING NEXT WEEK. WE'LL MAKE IT THE GREATEST HORROR PICTURE OF THE CENTURY!
GREAT! MAY I SUGGEST SONIA BLAKE AS JENNY, JEFF CRAIN AS WALTER AND LAKE WOOD AS SCARFACE? I REALLY WROTE THE STORY FOR THEM.
THE PARTS FIT THEM LIKE GLOVES! WOOD WILL DO A BETTER JOB AS SCARFACE THAN ANY CHARACTER ACTOR IN HOLLYWOOD!
A FRIEND OF MINE OWNS THE OLD TARRYMORE CASTLE ON MAD MOUNTAIN. IT'D BE AN IDEAL SETTING!
GREAT! THE TARRYMORE CASTLE IT IS. I'LL GET THINGS STARTED. WE'LL START MOVING THE CAST OUT THERE MONDAY!
OKAY, MR. SMALL. I'M SURE THE PICTURE WILL BE A GREAT SUCCESS!
A WEEK LATER, THE CAST ARRIVES AT TARRYMORE CASTLE.
IT'S SPOOKY, ISN'T IT?
BRRR...! SHORE CERTAINLY CHOSE THE RIGHT PLACE TO SHOOT HIS HORROR SCRIPT! IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
IT'S WONDERFUL! LET'S TAKE A LOOK INSIDE.
2

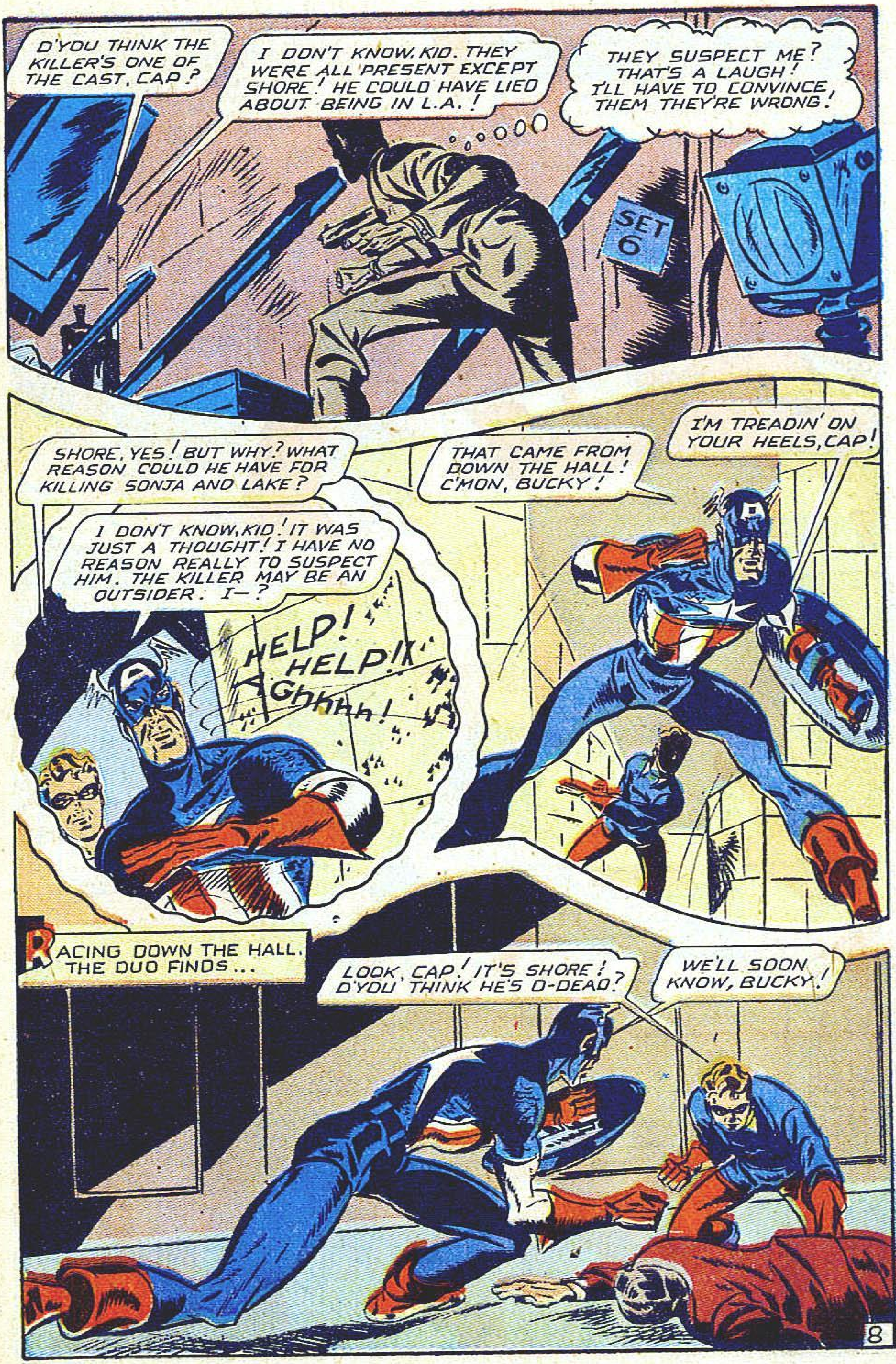

M-MMM! NICE PLACE FOR A MURDER!
OHH! DON'T SAY THAT!
IT'S MAGNIFICENT! WE'VE EVEN GOT REAL COB-WEBS! WE'LL START SHOOTING IMMEDIATELY. TOMMY, SET UP THE CAMERAS!
MEANWHILE, ON A MOUNTAIN ROAD NOT FAR AWAY, TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES ARE HAVING TROUBLE!
WELL, BUCKY, THAT DOES IT! WE'LL HAVE TO START WALKING!
WHAT ROTTEN LUCK! SAY, STEVE, HOW ABOUT THAT CASTLE? IF THEY HAVE A PHONE WE CAN CALL THE GARAGE. C'MON!
WHILE IN THE CASTLE...
YOU CRINGE, JENNY--AS I DID WHEN THE FIRE SEARED MY FACE AND MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY! I'VE COME TO KILL YOU!
SCARFACE, PLEASE! DON'T TOUCH ME! NO! NO!...
DIRECTOR
AND OUTSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS...
STEVE! SOMEONE'S GETTING MURDERED!
THEN STOP GAPING AND LET'S GO! MURDER IS THE BUSINESS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA!
E'EEEEEEEEEEEE

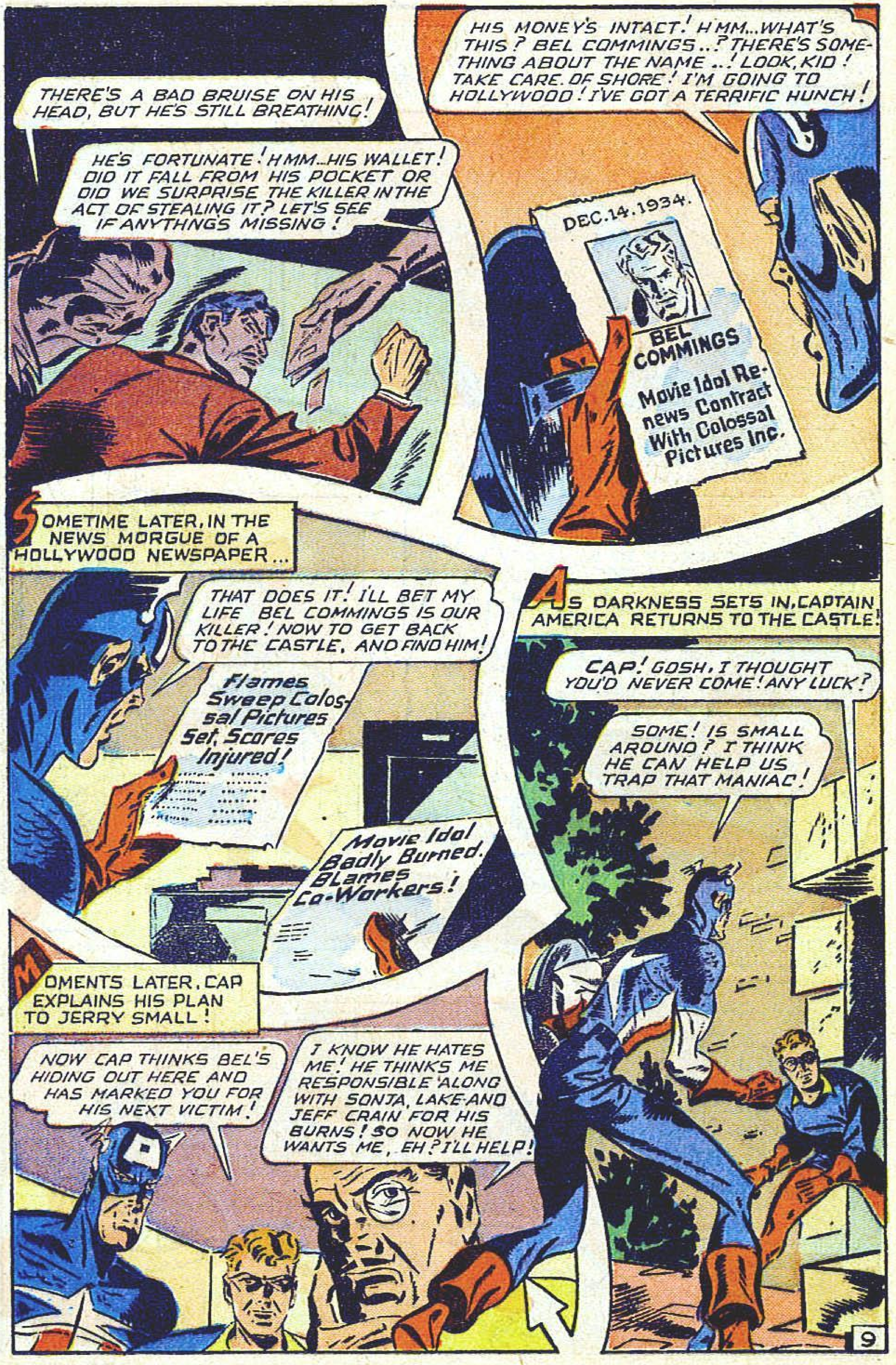

YEOOOO! UP AND AT 'EM! SAY— CAP! D'YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
I'LL BE-! ACTORS! THEY'RE SHOOTING A PICTURE!
CUT! CUT! WHAT'S GOING ON? GET OFF THIS SET! I DONT REMEMBER HIRING ANY COSTUMED EXTRAS!
SET 4
WHO'S AN EXTRA? THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA!
WHAT? BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR SPOILING MY SCENE! PLEASE KEEP OFF THE SET. ALL RIGHT! DO THAT OVER. LIGHTS, CAMERA... ACTION!
EEEEE
AYE! SCREAM WHILE YOU MAY! FOR SOON-- YOU WILL SCREAM NO MORE!
I SWORE TO GET EVEN...!
SAY! HE ISN'T GOING TO REALLY STRANGLE HER?
OF COURSE NOT! HE'S JUST MAKING IT LOOK REALISTIC! LAKE DOES AN EXCELLENT JOB AS SCARFACE!

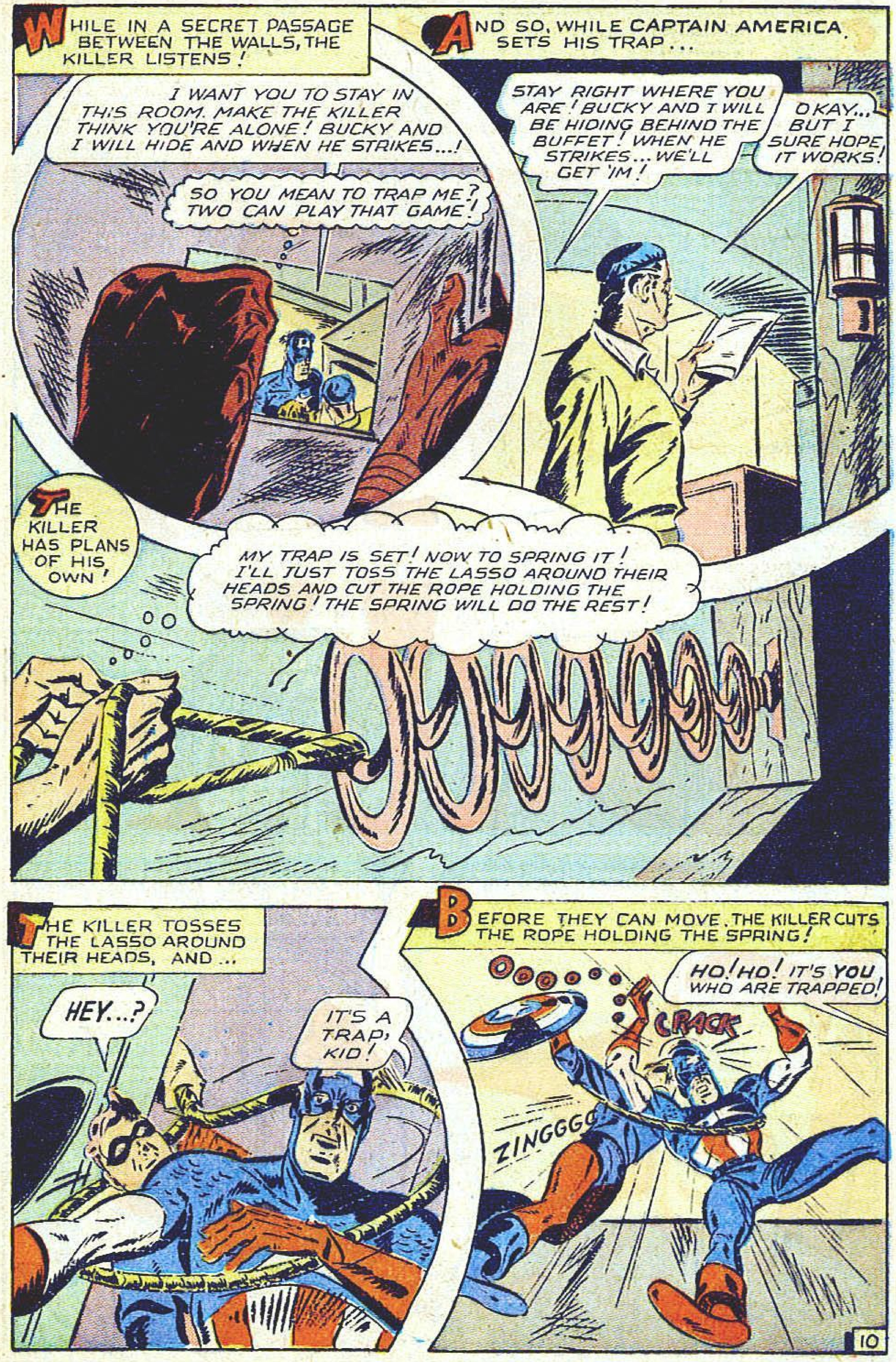

BUT BEHIND THE FALSE WALL OF THE DUNGEON SET IS THE REAL LAKE WOOD!
SET 4
AND ON THE SET, A MAD KILLER'S FINGERS TIGHTEN ON THE WHITE THROAT OF THE HELPLESS GIRL!
HA! HA! I SAID I'D GET EVEN!
Agghhhhh!
CAP! HE ISN'T ACTING! THE GIRL... SHE'S...!
LAKE'S GONE MAD! STOP HIM, SOMEBODY!
UP AND AT 'IM, BUCKY!
SHE'S ONLY THE FIRST! ALL OF YOU WILL DIE! HA! HA! HA!
AS CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY LEAP FOR THE GRIMACING MANIAC...
CRASH!
THE LIGHTS! HE SMASHED THEM!
HE'S HEADING DOWN THE PASSAGE! WE'VE GOT TO CATCH HIM!
AHEAD IN THE PASSAGE, SCARFACE PAUSES!
I DIDN'T FIGURE ON THOSE FOOLS! BUT THEY CAN'T STOP ME FROM TAKING MY REVENGE!

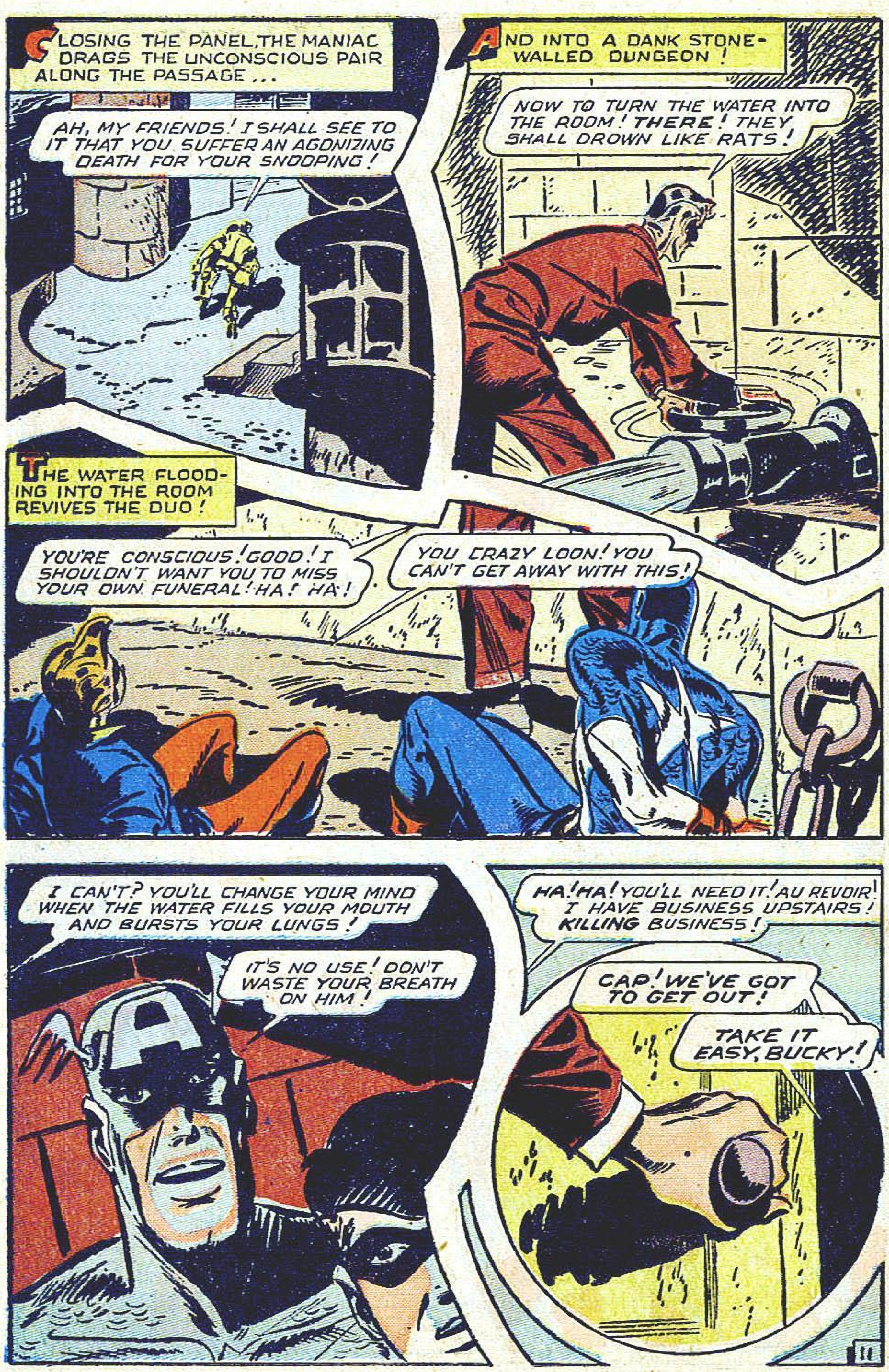

AND AS CAP AND BUCKY POUND PAST HIM...
HEY!
CRASH
SCARFACE STEPS OUT AND —
FOOLS!
CRACK
CAP COMES TO AS SCARFACE LEAVES!
CAP! CAP! YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M OKAY, KID! THE KILLER GOT AWAY, EH? LET'S GET BACK TO THE SET!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE MADE LAKE-? CAP!! THE KILLER ISN'T LAKE! LOOK!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BUCKY! THAT BODY IS LAKE WOOD'S! THAT MANIAC KILLED HIM AND TOOK HIS PLACE!
LAKE! BUT I THOUGHT...?
SO DID WE! NO, LAKE ISN'T THE KILLER!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE ONE WHO IS! HE'S THREATENED TO KILL ALL OF YOU AND I THINK HE MEANS IT!
ON THE WAY BACK TO THE SET—THE DUO DISCOVERS...

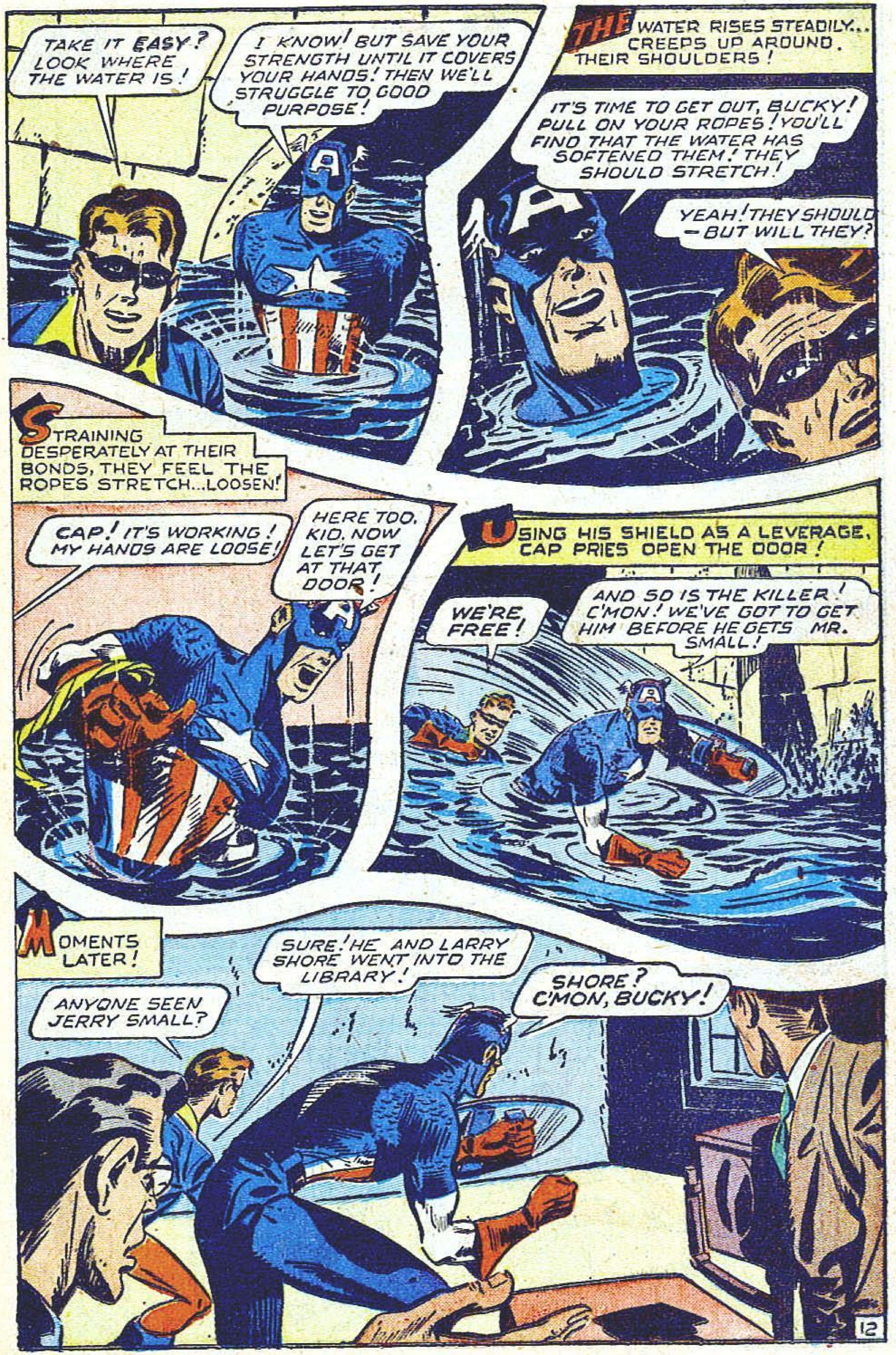

BUT WHO..? WHY—?
THAT'S JUST IT! WE'VE GOT TO FIND SOMEONE WITH A MOTIVE! IS ALL YOUR CAST ACCOUNTED FOR?
YES! ALL EXCEPT LARRY SHORE, THE WRITER. HERE HE COMES NOW!
HI, FOLKS! WHY ALL THE GLOOM?
SONJA AND LAKE...MURDERED? WHY--IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE!
I WISH IT WEREN'T! WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME?
IN L.A.! I HAD SOME THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF. I JUST GOT HERE!
WELL! WE'VE GOT A KILLER IN OUR MIDST AND HE'S GOT TO BE FOUND! YOU FOLKS KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AND DON'T VENTURE INTO ANY CORNERS!
NO KILLER'S BLUFFING ME! I'VE GOT A GUN ON ME AND IF HE SHOWS HIS MURDEROUS HEAD, I'LL SHOOT IT OFF!
STAY HERE, BUCKY! WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS THING OUT!
AS YOU KNOW, THERE'S BEEN A DOUBLE MURDER! NO ONE IS TO LEAVE THE CASTLE UNTIL THE KILLER'S CAUGHT! KEEP CLOSE TOGETHER AND WATCH YOUR STEP!
NOT ME! I'M GOING TO SNOOP AROUND! MAYBE I CAN FIND THE KILLER!

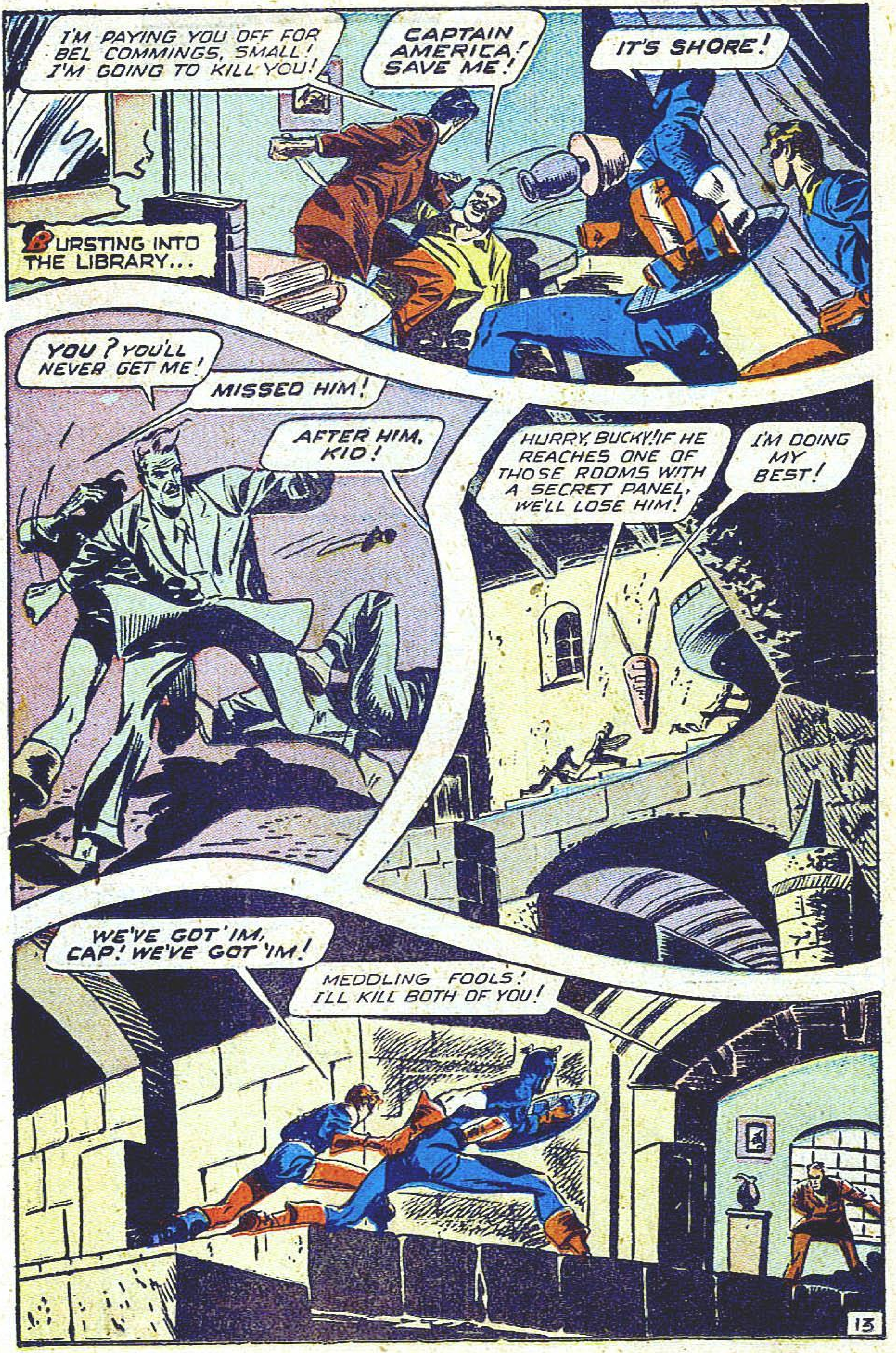

D'YOU THINK THE KILLER'S ONE OF THE CAST, CAP?
I DON'T KNOW, KID. THEY WERE ALL PRESENT EXCEPT SHORE! HE COULD HAVE LIED ABOUT BEING IN L.A.!
THEY SUSPECT ME? THAT'S A LAUGH! I'LL HAVE TO CONVINCE THEM THEY'RE WRONG!
SET 6
SHORE, YES! BUT WHY? WHAT REASON COULD HE HAVE FOR KILLING SONJA AND LAKE?
I DON'T KNOW, KID! IT WAS JUST A THOUGHT! I HAVE NO REASON REALLY TO SUSPECT HIM. THE KILLER MAY BE AN OUTSIDER. I—?
HELP! HELP!! AGhhhh!
THAT CAME FROM DOWN THE HALL! C'MON, BUCKY!
I'M TREADIN' ON YOUR HEELS, CAP!
RACING DOWN THE HALL, THE DUO FINDS...
LOOK, CAP! IT'S SHORE! D'YOU THINK HE'S D-DEAD?
WE'LL SOON KNOW, BUCKY!

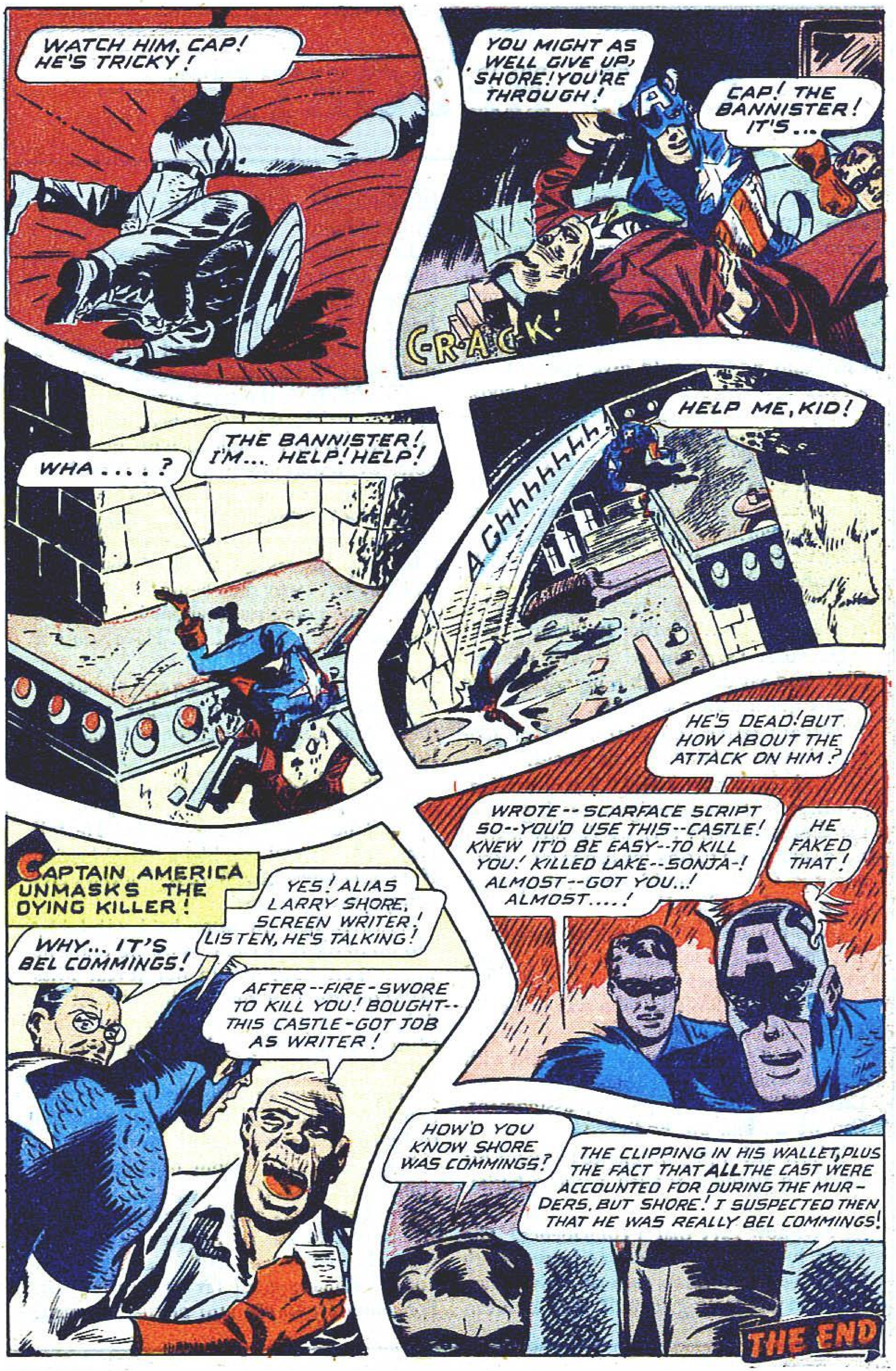

THERE'S A BAD BRUISE ON HIS HEAD, BUT HE'S STILL BREATHING!
HE'S FORTUNATE! HMM...HIS WALLET! DID IT FALL FROM HIS POCKET OR DID WE SURPRISE THE KILLER IN THE ACT OF STEALING IT? LET'S SEE IF ANYTHNGS MISSING!
HIS MONEY'S INTACT! H'MM...WHAT'S THIS? BEL COMMINGS..? THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE NAME..! LOOK, KID! TAKE CARE. OF SHORE! I'M GOING TO HOLLYWOOD! I'VE GOT A TERRIFIC HUNCH!
DEC. 14. 1934.
BEL COMMINGS
Movie Idol Renews Contract With Colossal Pictures Inc.
SOMETIME LATER, IN THE NEWS MORGUE OF A HOLLYWOOD NEWSPAPER...
THAT DOES IT! I'LL BET MY LIFE BEL COMMINGS IS OUR KILLER! NOW TO GET BACK TO THE CASTLE, AND FIND HIM!
Flames Sweep Colossal Pictures Set, Scores Injured!
Movie Idol Badly Burned. Blames Co-Workers!
AS DARKNESS SETS IN, CAPTAIN AMERICA RETURNS TO THE CASTLE!
CAP! GOSH, I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER COME! ANY LUCK?
SOME! IS SMALL AROUND? I THINK HE CAN HELP US TRAP THAT MANIAC!
MOMENTS LATER, CAP EXPLAINS HIS PLAN TO JERRY SMALL!
NOW CAP THINKS BEL'S HIDING OUT HERE AND HAS MARKED YOU FOR HIS NEXT VICTIM!
I KNOW HE HATES ME! HE THINKS ME RESPONSIBLE ALONG WITH SONJA, LAKE AND JEFF CRAIN FOR HIS BURNS! SO NOW HE WANTS ME, EH? I'LL HELP!


WHILE IN A SECRET PASSAGE BETWEEN THE WALLS, THE KILLER LISTENS!
I WANT YOU TO STAY IN THIS ROOM. MAKE THE KILLER THINK YOU'RE ALONE! BUCKY AND I WILL HIDE AND WHEN HE STRIKES...!
SO YOU MEAN TO TRAP ME? TWO CAN PLAY THAT GAME!
AND SO, WHILE CAPTAIN AMERICA SETS HIS TRAP...
STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE! BUCKY AND I WILL BE HIDING BEHIND THE BUFFET! WHEN HE STRIKES... WE'LL GET 'IM!
O KAY... BUT I SURE HOPE IT WORKS!
THE KILLER HAS PLANS OF HIS OWN!
MY TRAP IS SET! NOW TO SPRING IT! I'LL JUST TOSS THE LASSO AROUND THEIR HEADS AND CUT THE ROPE HOLDING THE SPRING! THE SPRING WILL DO THE REST!
THE KILLER TOSSES THE LASSO AROUND THEIR HEADS, AND...
HEY...?
IT'S A TRAP, KID!
BEFORE THEY CAN MOVE, THE KILLER CUTS THE ROPE HOLDING THE SPRING!
HO! HO! IT'S YOU WHO ARE TRAPPED!
CRACK
ZINGGGG


CLOSING THE PANEL, THE MANIAC DRAGS THE UNCONSCIOUS PAIR ALONG THE PASSAGE . . .
AH, MY FRIENDS! I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT YOU SUFFER AN AGONIZING DEATH FOR YOUR SNOOPING!
AND INTO A DANK STONE-WALLED DUNGEON!
NOW TO TURN THE WATER INTO THE ROOM! **THERE!** THEY SHALL DROWN LIKE RATS!
THE WATER FLOODING INTO THE ROOM REVIVES THE DUO!
YOU'RE CONSCIOUS! GOOD! I SHOULDN'T WANT YOU TO MISS YOUR OWN FUNERAL! HA! HA!
YOU CRAZY LOON! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
I CAN'T? YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN THE WATER FILLS YOUR MOUTH AND BURSTS YOUR LUNGS!
IT'S NO USE! DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH ON HIM!
HA! HA! YOU'LL NEED IT! AU REVOIR! I HAVE BUSINESS UPSTAIRS! **KILLING** BUSINESS!
CAP! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT!
TAKE IT EASY, BUCKY!


TAKE IT EASY? LOOK WHERE THE WATER IS!
I KNOW! BUT SAVE YOUR STRENGTH UNTIL IT COVERS YOUR HANDS! THEN WE'LL STRUGGLE TO GOOD PURPOSE!
THE WATER RISES STEADILY... CREEPS UP AROUND THEIR SHOULDERS!
IT'S TIME TO GET OUT, BUCKY! PULL ON YOUR ROPES! YOU'LL FIND THAT THE WATER HAS SOFTENED THEM! THEY SHOULD STRETCH!
YEAH! THEY SHOULD —BUT WILL THEY?
STRAINING DESPERATELY AT THEIR BONDS, THEY FEEL THE ROPES STRETCH...LOOSEN!
CAP! IT'S WORKING! MY HANDS ARE LOOSE!
HERE TOO, KID. NOW LET'S GET AT THAT DOOR!
USING HIS SHIELD AS A LEVERAGE, CAP PRIES OPEN THE DOOR!
WE'RE FREE!
AND SO IS THE KILLER! C'MON! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM BEFORE HE GETS MR. SMALL!
MOMENTS LATER!
ANYONE SEEN JERRY SMALL?
SURE! HE AND LARRY SHORE WENT INTO THE LIBRARY!
SHORE? C'MON, BUCKY!


I'M PAYING YOU OFF FOR BEL COMMINGS, SMALL! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
CAPTAIN AMERICA! SAVE ME!
IT'S SHORE!
BURSTING INTO THE LIBRARY...
YOU? YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!
MISSED HIM!
AFTER HIM, KID!
HURRY, BUCKY! IF HE REACHES ONE OF THOSE ROOMS WITH A SECRET PANEL, WE'LL LOSE HIM!
I'M DOING MY BEST!
WE'VE GOT 'IM, CAP! WE'VE GOT 'IM!
MEDDLING FOOLS! I'LL KILL BOTH OF YOU!


WATCH HIM, CAP! HE'S TRICKY!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP, SHORE! YOU'RE THROUGH!
CAP! THE BANNISTER! IT'S...
C-R-A-C-K!
WHA....?
THE BANNISTER! I'M... HELP! HELP!
HELP ME, KID!
AGhhhhhhh.
CAPTAIN AMERICA UNMASKS THE DYING KILLER!
WHY... IT'S BEL COMMINGS!
YES! ALIAS LARRY SHORE, SCREEN WRITER! LISTEN, HE'S TALKING!
AFTER--FIRE-SWORE TO KILL YOU! BOUGHT--THIS CASTLE-GOT JOB AS WRITER!
HE'S DEAD! BUT HOW ABOUT THE ATTACK ON HIM?
WROTE--SCARFACE SCRIPT SO--YOU'D USE THIS--CASTLE! KNEW IT'D BE EASY--TO KILL YOU! KILLED LAKE--SONJA-! ALMOST--GOT YOU...! ALMOST....!
HE FAKED THAT!
HOW'D YOU KNOW SHORE WAS COMMINGS?
THE CLIPPING IN HIS WALLET, PLUS THE FACT THAT ALL THE CAST WERE ACCOUNTED FOR DURING THE MURDERS, BUT SHORE! I SUSPECTED THEN THAT HE WAS REALLY BEL COMMINGS!
THE END

CUB-REPORTER

HOW was Larry to become a "big-shot" reporter, when all the juicy assignments went to men like Chris Fadden and Eddie Wells? These two writers had been on the Evening Standard for years, and were jealous of their exalted position on the paper's staff. At every opportunity, Chris and Eddie would give young Larry a false lead and send him on a wild-goose chase, much to the merriment of the rest of the staff. Once, they had given him the "inside dope" on a murder that was to occur at the Olympia Theater at ten o'clock sharp. Larry was there, in a box seat, to see an underworld killing and write a terrific story on it as an eye-witness. But the only "murder" which took place at ten o'clock was performed by the stars of the stage hit at the Olympia...."Murder In Three Acts!"

One day, Larry pulled a chair next to Chris and sat down with a big sigh. Chris took a quick glance sideways.

"What's eating you, kid? You look like you ain't got a friend in the world!"

"And that's how I feel," Larry replied. "Pulling these tame assignments is getting me disgusted with this whole business! I need something to sink my hands into. How about it, Chris . . . could you fix it up with the managing editor?

Chris put on his best look of sympathy. But under that wrinkled brow were passing plots and intrigues in rapid succession. He turned to Eddie Wells, who was just coming out of the "chief's" office.

"The kid's in a bad way," Chris said with a quick wink that went unnoticed by young Larry. "Wants an important assignment. Can we fix him up, Eddie?"

Eddie, with a pitying glance to match his scheming friend's, replied without hesitation.

"Say, now isn't that a coincidence? The 'chief' just gave me a lead for a feature story which gotta be taken care of right away. But, I'm not feeling so well, see? You can handle it, kid . . . it's all yours! I'll fix it up with the boss!"

Larry could hardly talk, he was so enthused. He knew that it must be a big assignment, if the "chief" had given it to Eddie in the first place.

"Now listen carefully and I'll give you the details," Eddie whispered in a low voice. "Gloria Bolitho, the stage actress, is living at the Royal Hotel. We've been tipped off that she's been threatened with blackmail notes by Winky Malloy. The police don't even know about it yet. Now it's up to you to get the lowdown from Miss Bolitho before the coppers are tipped off and the other city papers get hold of the story! You know . . . why she's being blackmailed; what is she going to do about it . . . all the info you can get out of her. Have you got it, kid?"

"Wow! And how!" Larry shouted. "Thanks, Eddie. I'll remember you for this." And Larry hurried out of the City Room.

Eddie and Chris burst into laughter simultaneously.

"And how he'll remember me! He fell for that blackmail gag like a ton of bricks! If he only knew how Gloria Bolitho hates newspaper reporters!"

. . . Larry hurried into the hotel lobby and up to the desk clerk, knowing that this august personage would not reveal Miss Bolitho's room number without first indulging in a strict interrogation. So he applied a ruse which suddenly occurred to him.

"Miss Bolitho's room, please? Her maid is my sister, and I'm supposed to take her to lunch. Her afternoon off, you know!"

"Certainly, sir . . . room 1005. But don't you want me to . . ."

But Larry was already half-way to the elevators, and was no longer interested in what the desk clerk had to say. He had noticed something of far greater interest. For, entering an elevator at that moment, was none other than that Broadway confidence man . . . Winky Malloy!

The excited cub reporter took the next elevator up to the tenth floor. As he got out, he took a quick glance around the corridor. Winky was nowhere in sight! That meant he was already in Gloria Bolitho's apartment, going through his threats of blackmail! Larry walked to room 1005, his footsteps cushioned by the thick carpet in the corridor. A low murmur of angry voices came from the other side of the door.

"Got to get in that apartment without being noticed," Larry thought to himself. Then he remembered that this type of hotel-apartment had a large kitchen with a service entrance. A moment later, he was tapping softly at the service door. It was opened by a pretty, young maid. Larry entered the kitchen quickly, his finger-tip to his lips.

And before the maid could stop him, Larry had pressed an ear to the swinging door leading to the living room. He heard a muffled scream and the sound of scuffling feet. Then, before he realized what was happening, the maid pushed him violently, and he fell headlong into the next room. He gained his feet quickly, only to see Gloria Bolitho bound and gagged, with Winky tying the last knots in the rope. The maid held a small revolver in her right hand, pointed straight at Larry!

"This snooper came in through the service door, Winky," she said. "Claims to be a detective!"

So the maid was in on this blackmail racket too! Larry gasped inwardly.

"Nice going, Mamie," Winky said. "I'll take the dame down in the self-service elevator to the car, parked in the side alley. You put this nosey mug out of his misery!"

Larry realized his beautiful scoop was going up in smoke! He saw red, as the months of dull assignments and disappointments came to a head and made his blood boil. His mind was suddenly working overtime. A quick glance to the floor . . . Mamie was standing on a long narrow carpet; she on one end, Larry at the other end. Before the conspirators knew what he was about, he bent down, grasped the edge of the carpet, and swept Mamie off her feet. A sharp report came from the revolver, as a belated bullet ripped into the ceiling. Larry stepped on Mamie's wrist . . . she howled with pain and released her hold on the gun. With a nimble swoop, Larry took possession of the weapon.

Then, reclining nonchalantly in an easy-chair, Larry lifted the phone, and called police headquarters. Winky and Mamie glowered at him from the floor, as fifteen minutes passed. Then the police arrived and took charge.

The actress was untied. She wound her arms around Larry's neck and kissed him. He blushed furiously!

"But who are you?" she asked in sugar-coated tones.

Larry told her. "Now, how about an exclusive story on how Winky Malloy was blackmailing you, Miss Bolitho?"

She seemed puzzled for a moment. "But he was not blackmailing me! I never saw that 'character' until an hour ago! He was apparently in league with my new maid, Mamie . . . They were going to KIDNAP me, and demand a high ransom from my producers. They would have lost a fortune if I were missing from the opening of my new play tomorrow night!"

So it was another gag by Chris and Eddie that had sent him on a false story-lead!

"Say, Miss Bolitho, you can do me a big favor if . . ."

The actress interrupted him. "Anything . . . anything at all!"

. . . The managing editor of the Evening Standard, Harry Robinson, patted his young cub reporter on the back, as Gloria Bolitho stood by in his office and smiled.

"Take a look, you guys and gals," Robinson said. "Our newest feature writer . . . and the best of the whole bunch, I might add!"

And then he briefly related what Larry's scoop was. Two faces in the City Room were very red! Chris and Eddie glanced at each other, and then back to Larry and the "unapproachable" Miss Bolitho.

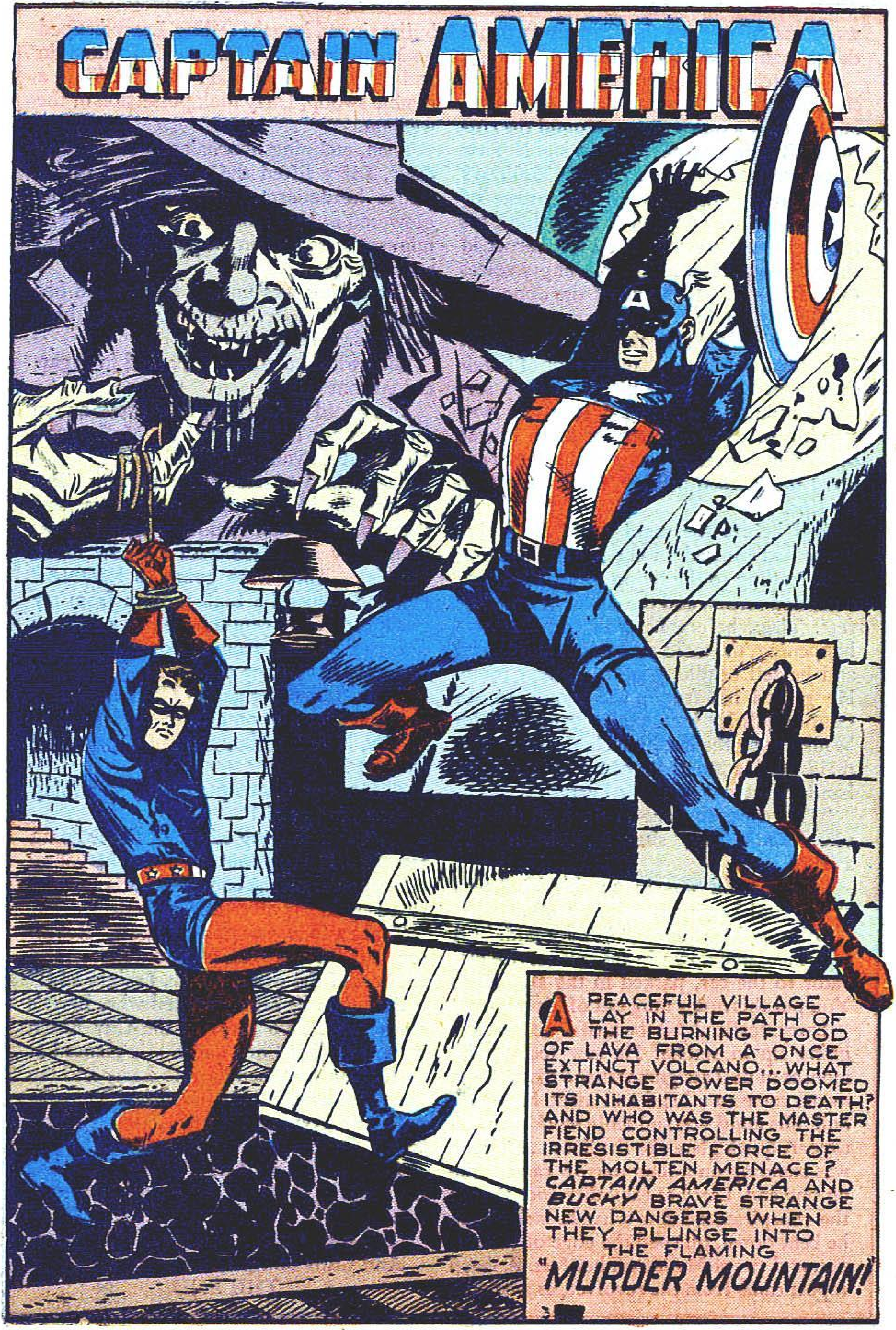
"Huh? You mean it was . . . Winky Malloy . . . Gloria Bol . . . kidnapped?"

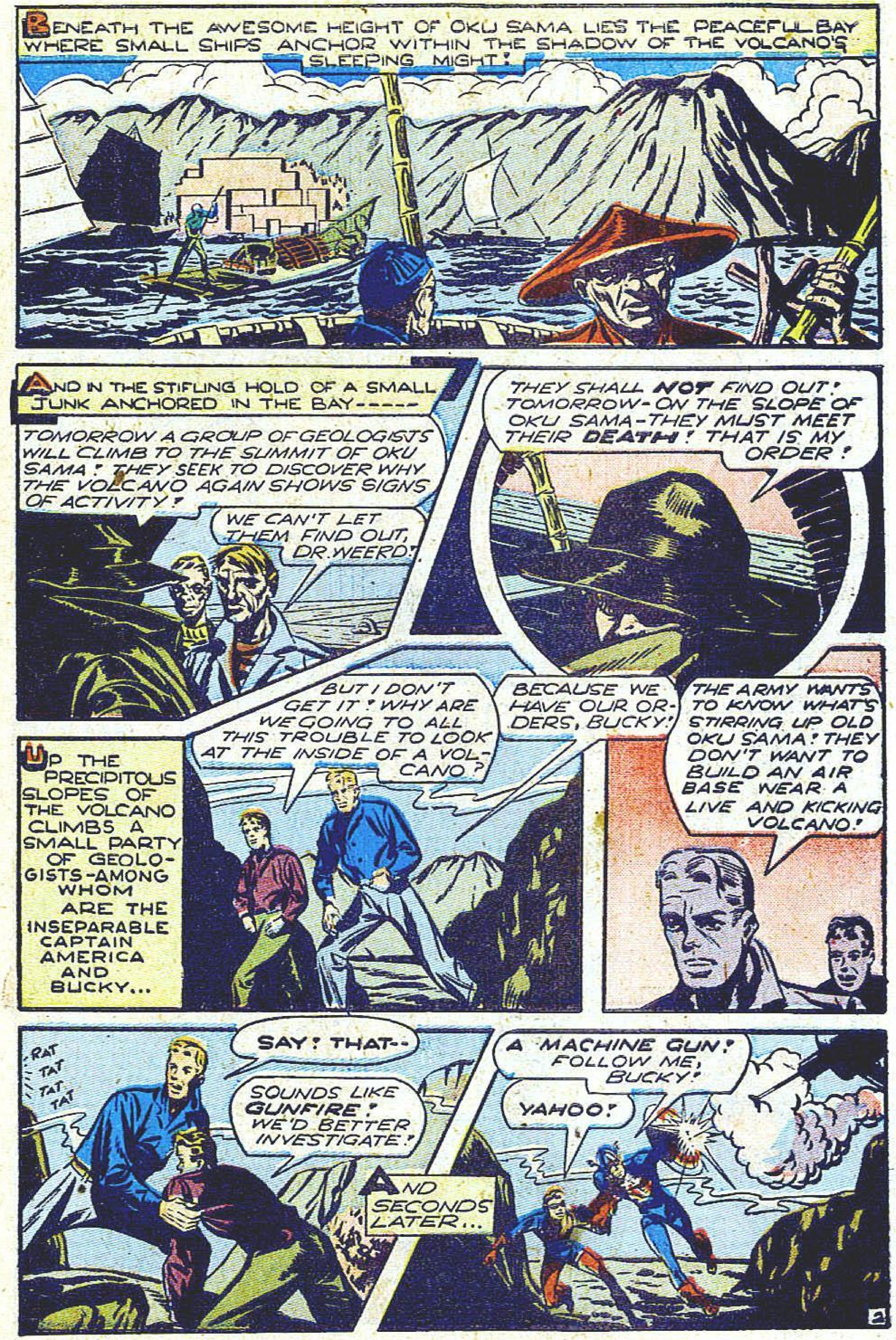
Eddie glared at Chris in disgust. He lifted up his jaw, slightly to the right, pointing to it.

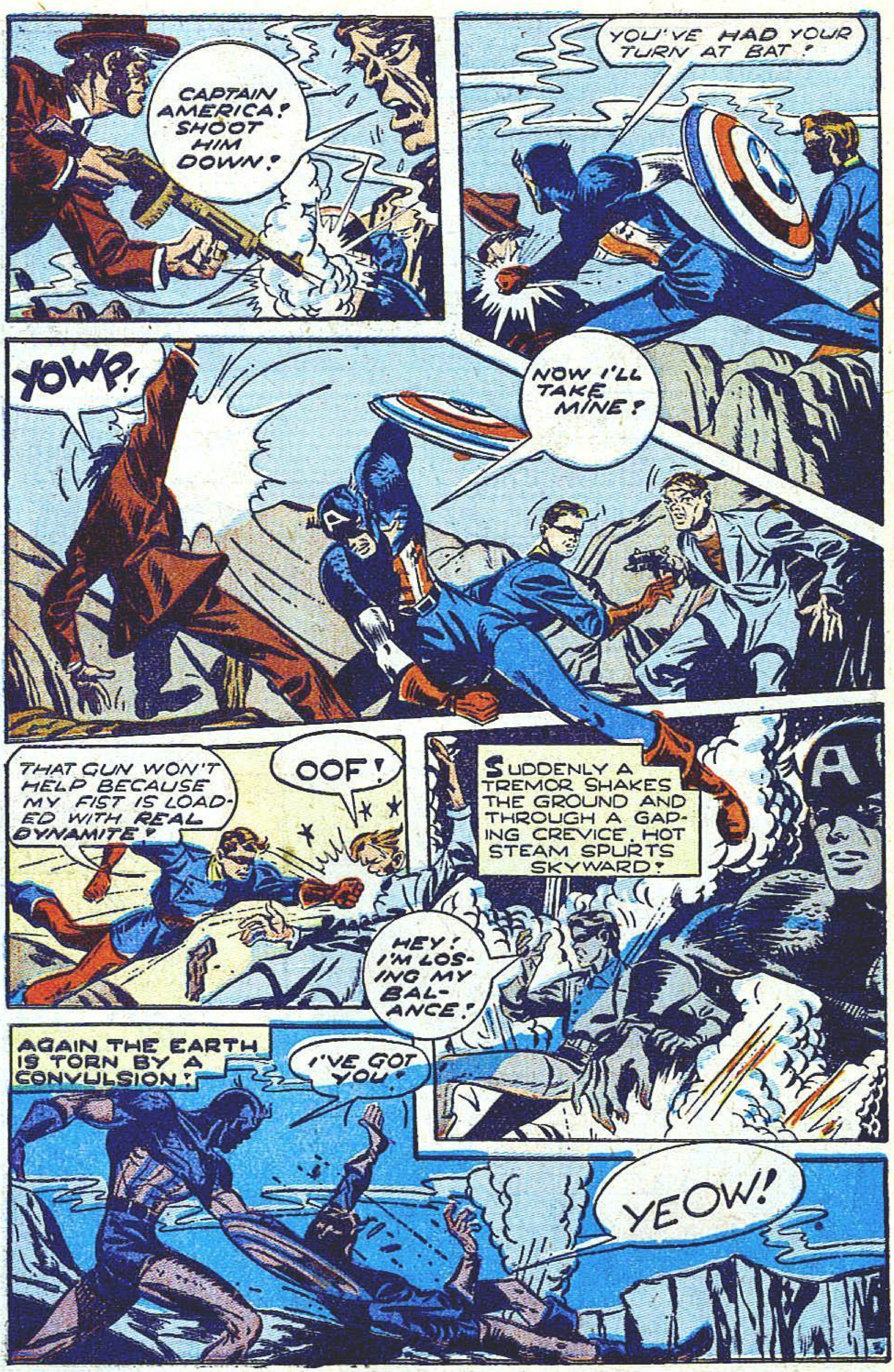
"Me first, Chris . . . and make it pretty!"

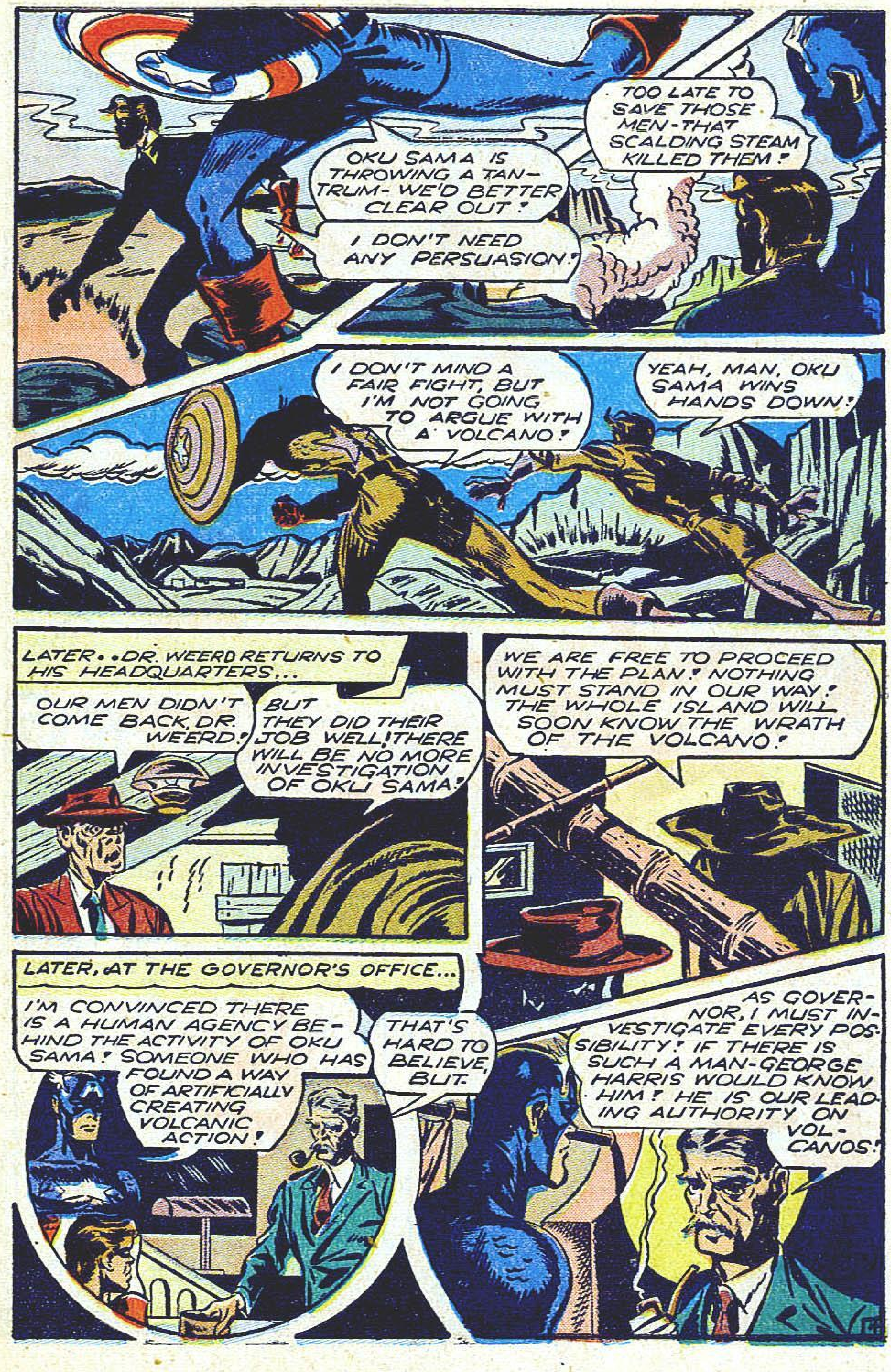
And Chris obliged.

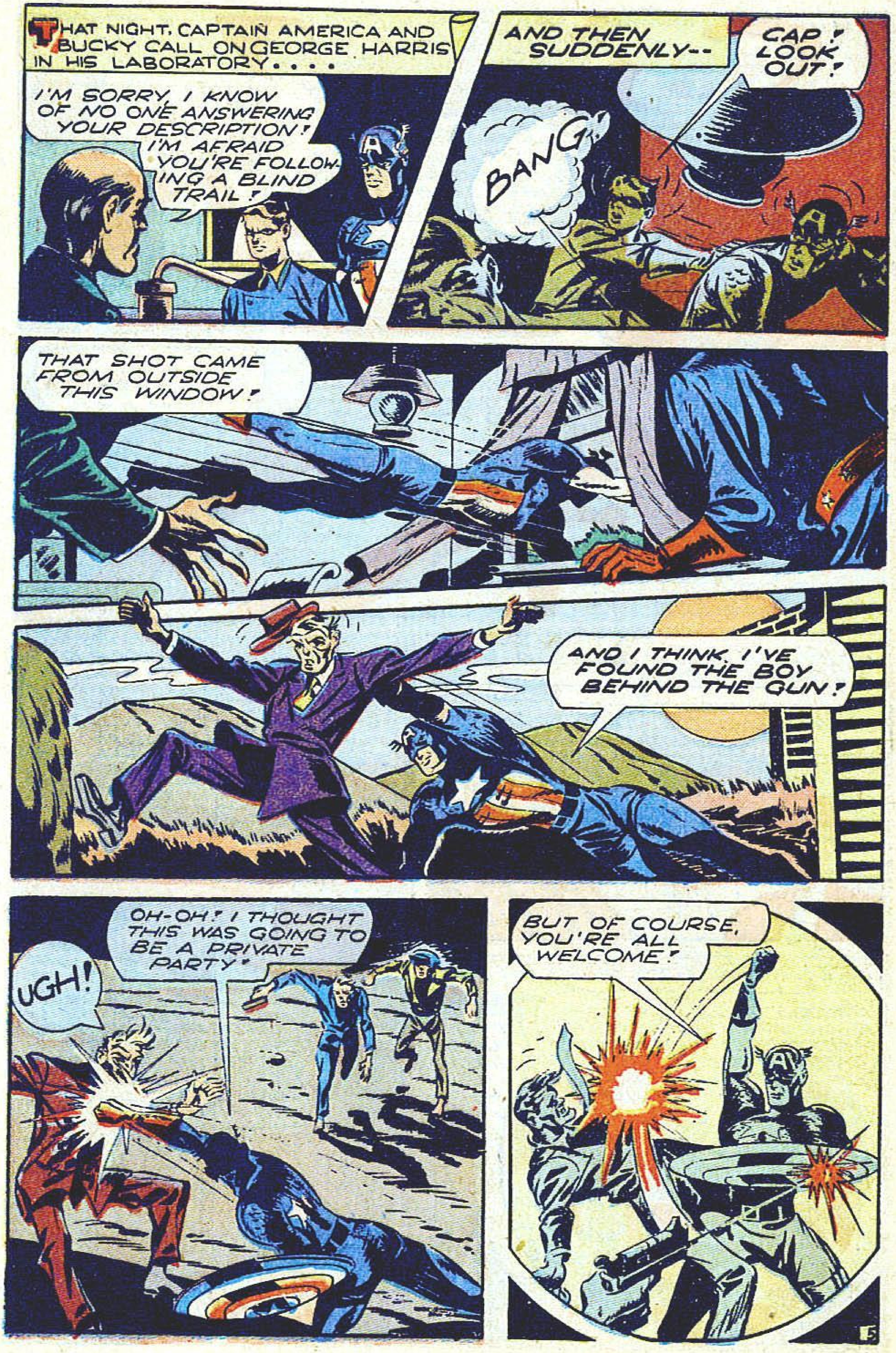
THE END

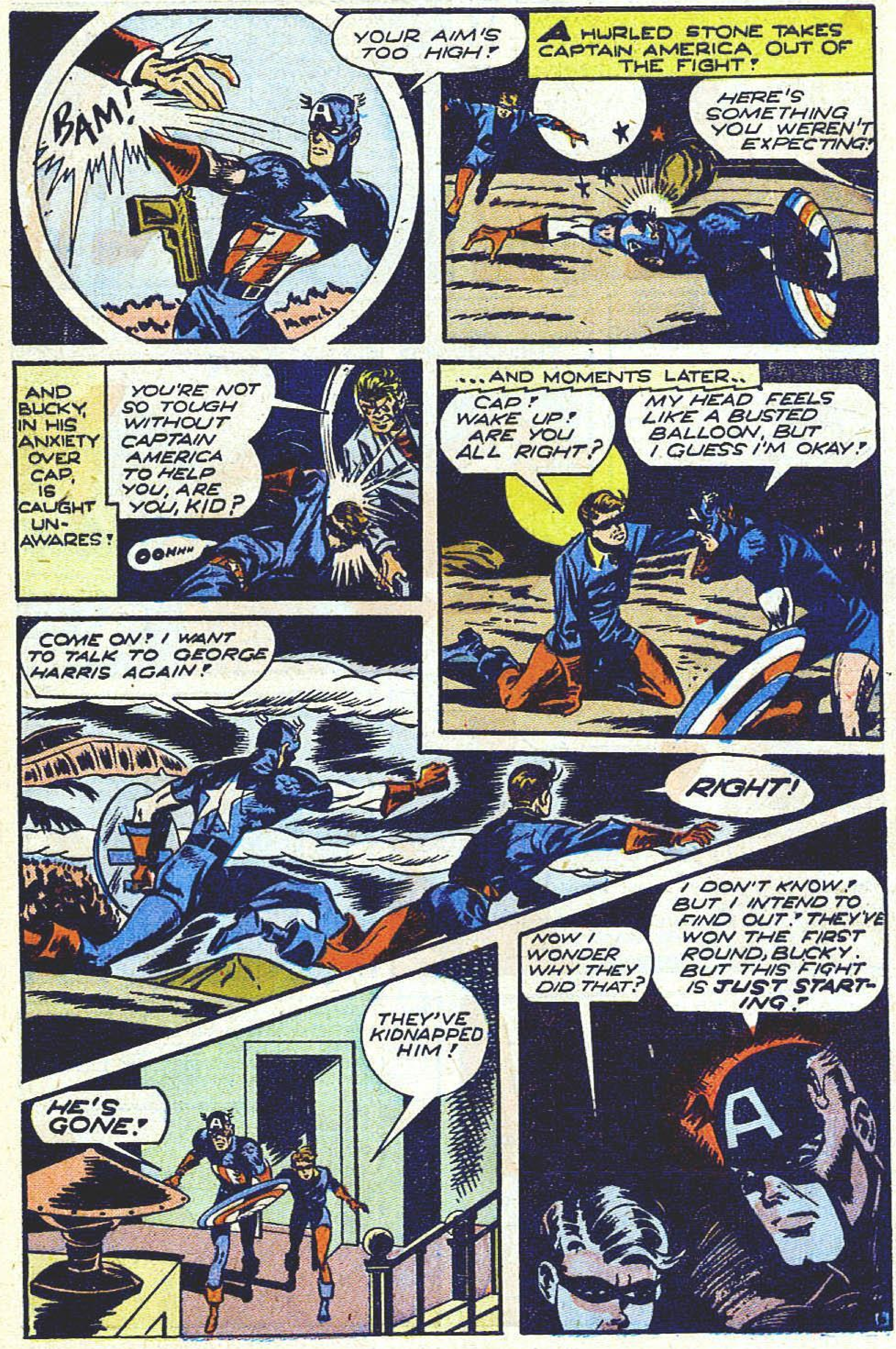

CAPTAIN AMERICA
A PEACEFUL VILLAGE LAY IN THE PATH OF THE BURNING FLOOD OF LAVA FROM A ONCE EXTINCT VOLCANO... WHAT STRANGE POWER DOOMED ITS INHABITANTS TO DEATH? AND WHO WAS THE MASTER FIEND CONTROLLING THE IRRESISTIBLE FORCE OF THE MOLTEN MENACE? *CAPTAIN AMERICA* AND *BUCKY* BRAVE STRANGE NEW DANGERS WHEN THEY PLUNGE INTO THE FLAMING
"MURDER MOUNTAIN!"

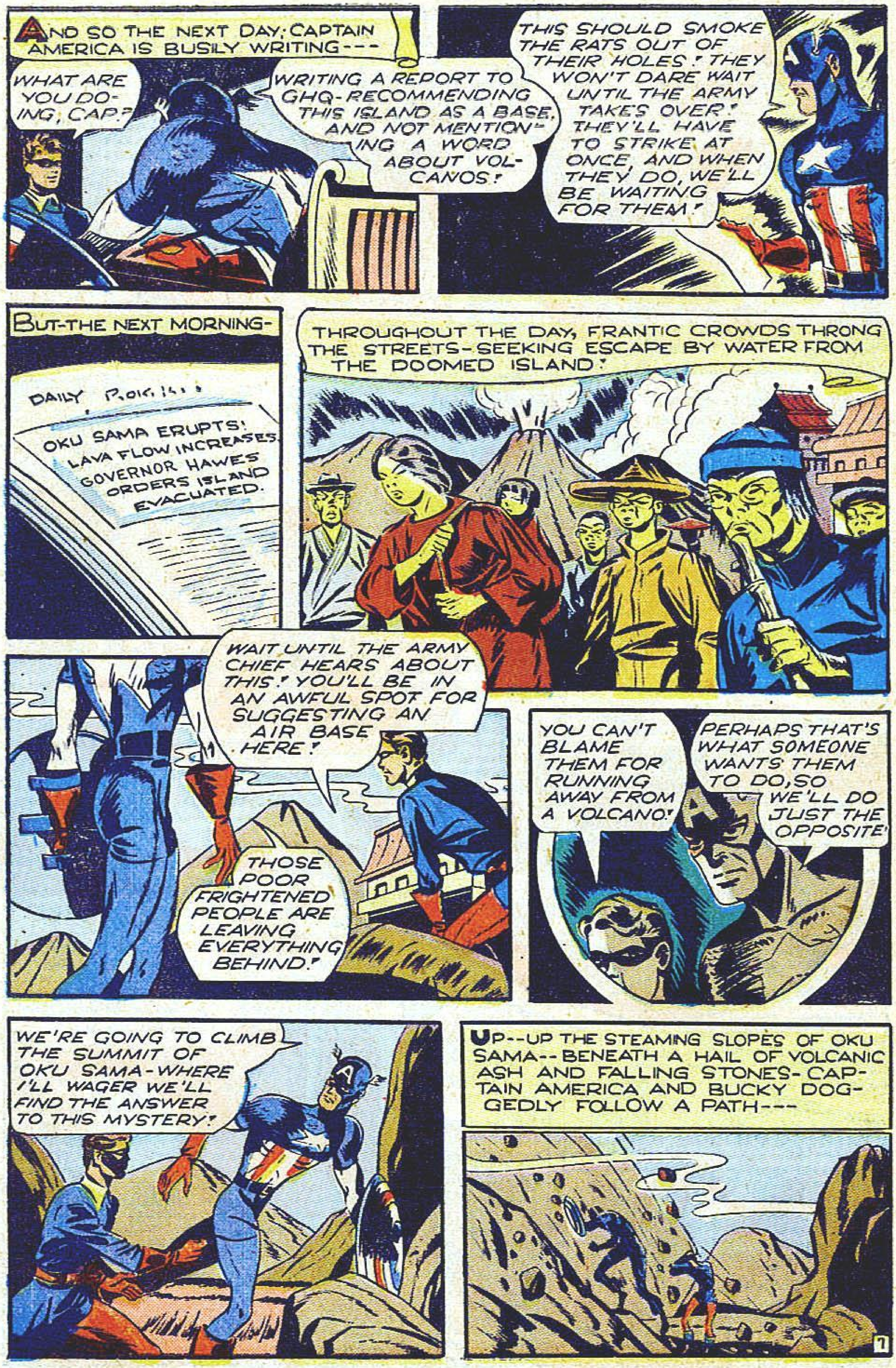

BENEATH THE AWESOME HEIGHT OF OKU SAMA LIES THE PEACEFUL BAY WHERE SMALL SHIPS ANCHOR WITHIN THE SHADOW OF THE VOLCANO'S SLEEPING MIGHT!
AND IN THE STIFLING HOLD OF A SMALL JUNK ANCHORED IN THE BAY-----
TOMORROW A GROUP OF GEOLOGISTS WILL CLIMB TO THE SUMMIT OF OKU SAMA! THEY SEEK TO DISCOVER WHY THE VOLCANO AGAIN SHOWS SIGNS OF ACTIVITY!
WE CAN'T LET THEM FIND OUT, DR. WEERD!
THEY SHALL NOT FIND OUT! TOMORROW- ON THE SLOPE OF OKU SAMA-THEY MUST MEET THEIR DEATH! THAT IS MY ORDER!
UP THE PRECIPITOUS SLOPES OF THE VOLCANO CLIMBS A SMALL PARTY OF GEOLOGISTS-AMONG WHOM ARE THE INSEPARABLE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY...
BUT I DON'T GET IT! WHY ARE WE GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO LOOK AT THE INSIDE OF A VOLCANO?
BECAUSE WE HAVE OUR ORDERS, BUCKY!
THE ARMY WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S STIRRING UP OLD OKU SAMA! THEY DON'T WANT TO BUILD AN AIR BASE WEAR A LIVE AND KICKING VOLCANO!
RAT TAT TAT TAT
SAY! THAT--
SOUNDS LIKE GUNFIRE! WE'D BETTER INVESTIGATE!
AND SECONDS LATER...
A MACHINE GUN! FOLLOW ME, BUCKY!
YAHOO!

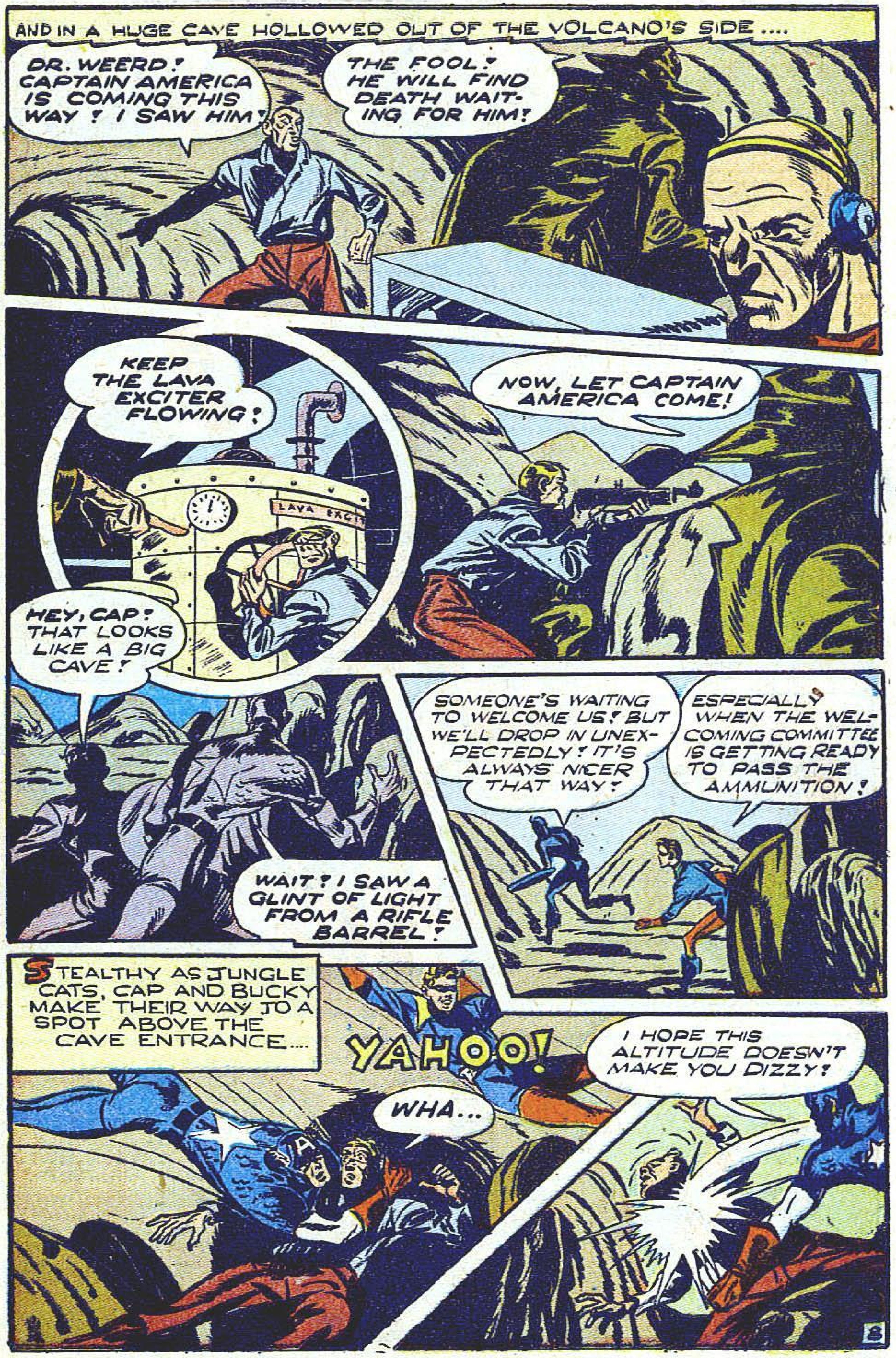

CAPTAIN AMERICA! SHOOT HIM DOWN!
YOU'VE HAD YOUR TURN AT BAT!
YOWP!
NOW I'LL TAKE MINE!
THAT GUN WON'T HELP BECAUSE MY FIST IS LOADED WITH REAL DYNAMITE!
OOF!
SUDDENLY A TREMOR SHAKES THE GROUND AND THROUGH A GAPING CREVICE, HOT STEAM SPURTS SKYWARD!
HEY! I'M LOSING MY BALANCE!
AGAIN THE EARTH IS TORN BY A CONVULSION!
I'VE GOT YOU!
YEOW!

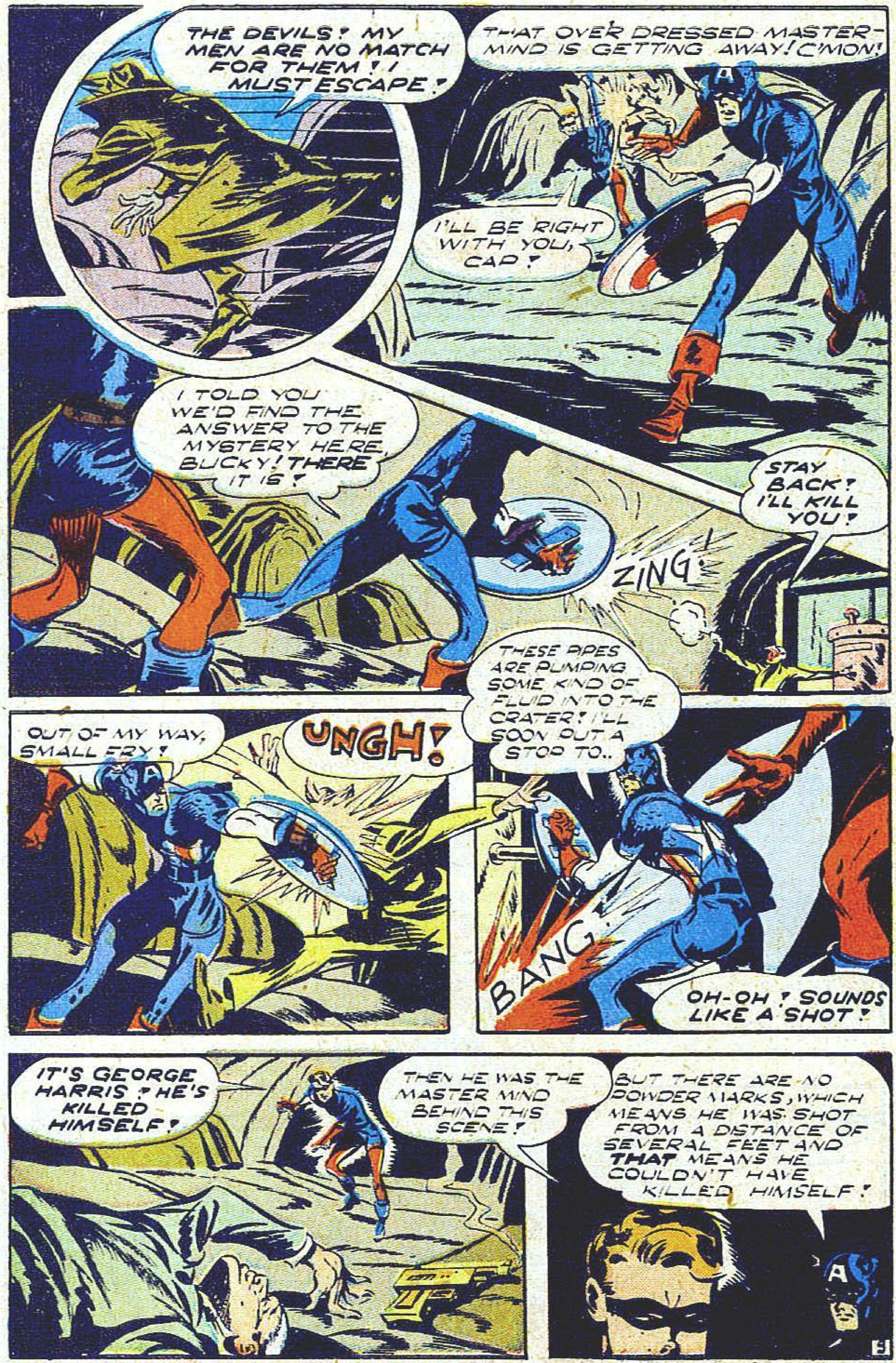

TOO LATE TO SAVE THOSE MEN-THAT SCALDING STEAM KILLED THEM!
OKU SAMA IS THROWING A TANTRUM- WE'D BETTER CLEAR OUT!
I DON'T NEED ANY PERSUASION!
I DON'T MIND A FAIR FIGHT, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE WITH A VOLCANO!
YEAH, MAN, OKU SAMA WINS HANDS DOWN!
LATER..DR. WEERD RETURNS TO HIS HEADQUARTERS...
OUR MEN DIDN'T COME BACK, DR. WEERD!
BUT THEY DID THEIR JOB WELL! THERE WILL BE NO MORE INVESTIGATION OF OKU SAMA!
WE ARE FREE TO PROCEED WITH THE PLAN! NOTHING MUST STAND IN OUR WAY! THE WHOLE ISLAND WILL SOON KNOW THE WRATH OF THE VOLCANO!
LATER, AT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE...
I'M CONVINCED THERE IS A HUMAN AGENCY BEHIND THE ACTIVITY OF OKU SAMA! SOMEONE WHO HAS FOUND A WAY OF ARTIFICIALLY CREATING VOLCANIC ACTION!
THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT.
AS GOVERNOR, I MUST INVESTIGATE EVERY POSSIBILITY! IF THERE IS SUCH A MAN-GEORGE HARRIS WOULD KNOW HIM! HE IS OUR LEADING AUTHORITY ON VOLCANOS!

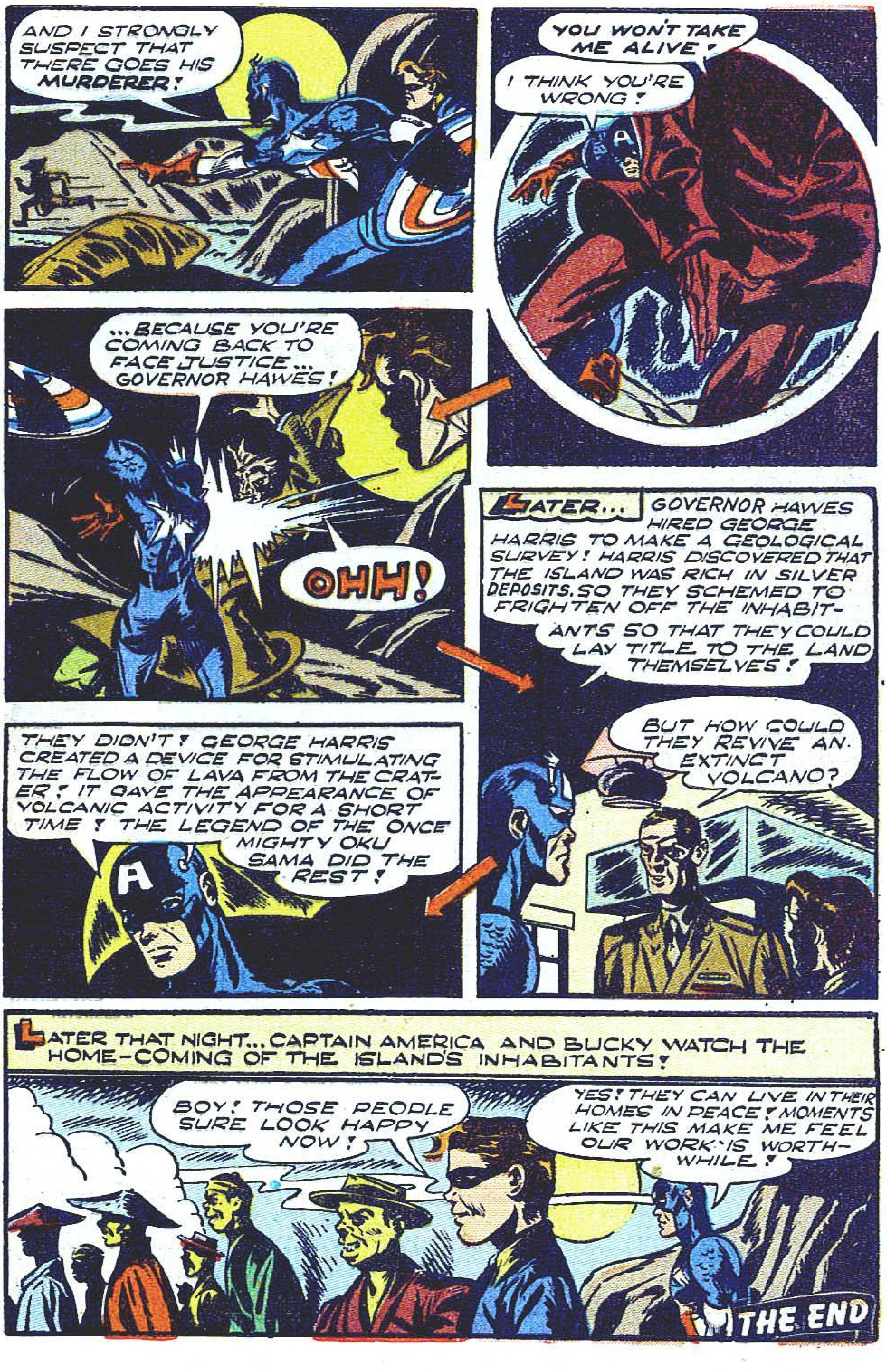

THAT NIGHT, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY CALL ON GEORGE HARRIS IN HIS LABORATORY . . . .
I'M SORRY, I KNOW OF NO ONE ANSWERING YOUR DESCRIPTION! I'M AFRAID YOU'RE FOLLOWING A BLIND TRAIL!
AND THEN SUDDENLY--
CAP! LOOK OUT!
BANG
THAT SHOT CAME FROM OUTSIDE THIS WINDOW!
AND I THINK I'VE FOUND THE BOY BEHIND THE GUN!
UGH!
OH-OH! I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A PRIVATE PARTY!
BUT OF COURSE, YOU'RE ALL WELCOME!


YOUR AIM'S TOO HIGH!
BAM!
A HURLED STONE TAKES CAPTAIN AMERICA OUT OF THE FIGHT!
HERE'S SOMETHING YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING!
AND BUCKY, IN HIS ANXIETY OVER CAP, IS CAUGHT UNAWARES!
YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH WITHOUT CAPTAIN AMERICA TO HELP YOU, ARE YOU, KID?
OONHH
...AND MOMENTS LATER..
CAP! WAKE UP! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MY HEAD FEELS LIKE A BUSTED BALLOON, BUT I GUESS I'M OKAY!
COME ON! I WANT TO TALK TO GEORGE HARRIS AGAIN!
RIGHT!
HE'S GONE!
THEY'VE KIDNAPPED HIM!
NOW I WONDER WHY THEY DID THAT?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT! THEY'VE WON THE FIRST ROUND, BUCKY. BUT THIS FIGHT IS **JUST STARTING**!


AND SO THE NEXT DAY, CAPTAIN AMERICA IS BUSILY WRITING---
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CAP?
WRITING A REPORT TO GHQ-RECOMMENDING THIS ISLAND AS A BASE, AND NOT MENTIONING A WORD ABOUT VOLCANOS!
THIS SHOULD SMOKE THE RATS OUT OF THEIR HOLES! THEY WON'T DARE WAIT UNTIL THE ARMY TAKES OVER! THEY'LL HAVE TO STRIKE AT ONCE, AND WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL BE WAITING FOR THEM!
BUT-THE NEXT MORNING-
DAILY
OKU SAMA ERUPTS! LAVA FLOW INCREASES. GOVERNOR HAWES ORDERS ISLAND EVACUATED.
THROUGHOUT THE DAY, FRANTIC CROWDS THRONG THE STREETS-SEEKING ESCAPE BY WATER FROM THE DOOMED ISLAND!
WAIT UNTIL THE ARMY CHIEF HEARS ABOUT THIS! YOU'LL BE IN AN AWFUL SPOT FOR SUGGESTING AN AIR BASE HERE!
THOSE POOR FRIGHTENED PEOPLE ARE LEAVING EVERYTHING BEHIND!
YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR RUNNING AWAY FROM A VOLCANO!
PERHAPS THAT'S WHAT SOMEONE WANTS THEM TO DO, SO WE'LL DO JUST THE OPPOSITE!
WE'RE GOING TO CLIMB THE SUMMIT OF OKU SAMA-WHERE I'LL WAGER WE'LL FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS MYSTERY!
UP--UP THE STEAMING SLOPES OF OKU SAMA--BENEATH A HAIL OF VOLCANIC ASH AND FALLING STONES-CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY DOGGEDLY FOLLOW A PATH---


AND IN A HUGE CAVE HOLLOWED OUT OF THE VOLCANO'S SIDE....
DR. WEERD! CAPTAIN AMERICA IS COMING THIS WAY! I SAW HIM!
THE FOOL! HE WILL FIND DEATH WAITING FOR HIM!
KEEP THE LAVA EXCITER FLOWING!
LAVA EXCIT
NOW, LET CAPTAIN AMERICA COME!
HEY, CAP! THAT LOOKS LIKE A BIG CAVE!
WAIT! I SAW A GLINT OF LIGHT FROM A RIFLE BARREL!
SOMEONE'S WAITING TO WELCOME US! BUT WE'LL DROP IN UNEXPECTEDLY! IT'S ALWAYS NICER THAT WAY!
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE IS GETTING READY TO PASS THE AMMUNITION!
STEALTHY AS JUNGLE CATS, CAP AND BUCKY MAKE THEIR WAY TO A SPOT ABOVE THE CAVE ENTRANCE....
YAHOO!
WHA...
I HOPE THIS ALTITUDE DOESN'T MAKE YOU DIZZY!


THE DEVILS! MY MEN ARE NO MATCH FOR THEM!! I MUST ESCAPE!
THAT OVER DRESSED MASTER-MIND IS GETTING AWAY! C'MON!
I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU, CAP!
I TOLD YOU WE'D FIND THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY HERE, BUCKY! THERE IT IS!
STAY BACK! I'LL KILL YOU!
ZING!
OUT OF MY WAY, SMALL FRY!
UNGH!
THESE PIPES ARE PUMPING SOME KIND OF FLUID INTO THE CRATER! I'LL SOON PUT A STOP TO..
BANG!
OH-OH! SOUNDS LIKE A SHOT!
IT'S GEORGE HARRIS! HE'S KILLED HIMSELF!
THEN HE WAS THE MASTER MIND BEHIND THIS SCENE!
BUT THERE ARE NO POWDER MARKS, WHICH MEANS HE WAS SHOT FROM A DISTANCE OF SEVERAL FEET AND THAT MEANS HE COULDN'T HAVE KILLED HIMSELF!


AND I STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT THERE GOES HIS **MURDERER**!
YOU WON'T TAKE ME ALIVE!
I THINK YOU'RE WRONG!
...BECAUSE YOU'RE COMING BACK TO FACE JUSTICE... GOVERNOR HAWES!
OHH!
LATER... GOVERNOR HAWES HIRED GEORGE HARRIS TO MAKE A GEOLOGICAL SURVEY! HARRIS DISCOVERED THAT THE ISLAND WAS RICH IN SILVER DEPOSITS. SO THEY SCHEMED TO FRIGHTEN OFF THE INHABITANTS SO THAT THEY COULD LAY TITLE TO THE LAND THEMSELVES!
BUT HOW COULD THEY REVIVE AN EXTINCT VOLCANO?
THEY DIDN'T! GEORGE HARRIS CREATED A DEVICE FOR STIMULATING THE FLOW OF LAVA FROM THE CRATER! IT GAVE THE APPEARANCE OF VOLCANIC ACTIVITY FOR A SHORT TIME! THE LEGEND OF THE ONCE MIGHTY OKU SAMA DID THE REST!
LATER THAT NIGHT... CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY WATCH THE HOME-COMING OF THE ISLAND'S INHABITANTS!
BOY! THOSE PEOPLE SURE LOOK HAPPY NOW!
YES! THEY CAN LIVE IN THEIR HOMES IN PEACE! MOMENTS LIKE THIS MAKE ME FEEL OUR WORK IS WORTHWHILE!
THE END

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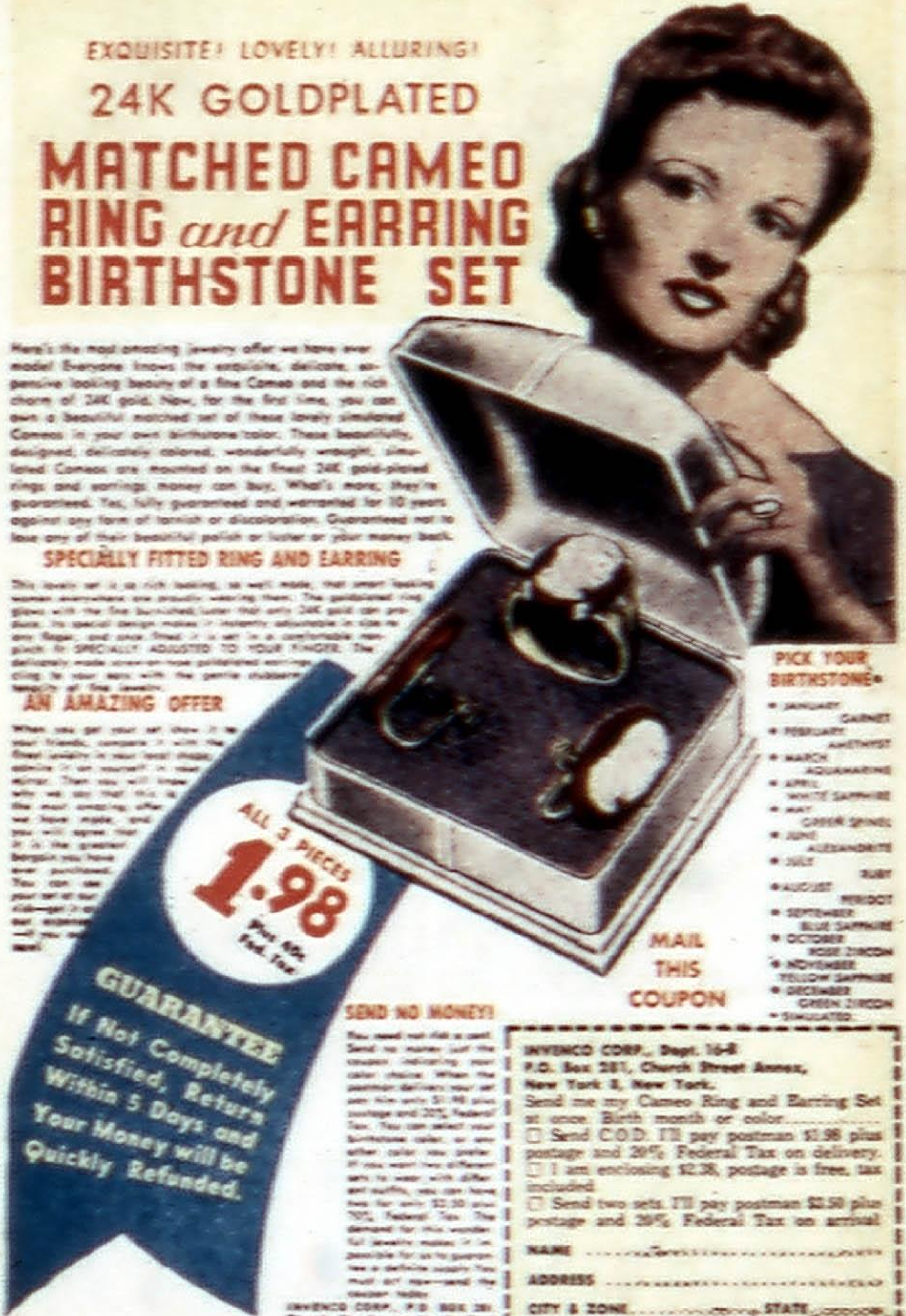
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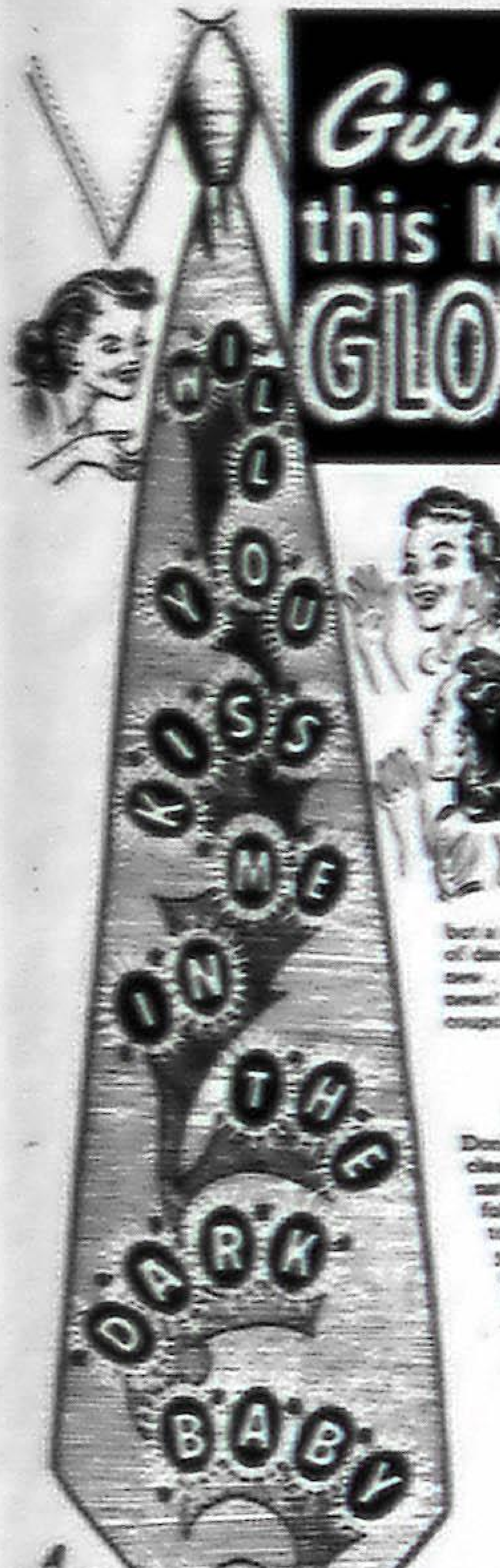
WILL YOU KISS ME IN THE DARK BABY

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MEN . . . BOYS . . . Now amaze your friends! Surprise and thrill every girl you meet! Be different and the life of the party in any crowd! Here's the most amazing spectacular necktie that you ever wore, a smart wrinkle-proof, tailored cravat, which at night is a thrilling sensation! It's smart, superb class by day, and just imagine in the dark it seems like a necktie of compelling allure sheer magic! Like a miracle of light there comes a pulsing, glowing question—WILL YOU KISS ME IN THE DARK, BABY? Think of the surprise, the awe you will cause! There's no trick, no hidden batteries, no switches or foolish horseplay, but a thing of loveliness as the question emerges gradually to life, touched by the wand of darkness, and your girl will gasp with wonder as it takes form so amazingly. It's new . . . utterly different . . . a Hollywood riot wherever you go. And here's wonderful news! You can see, examine this glorious tie yourself without risk . . . just mail the coupon!

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If you want 1 De Luxe Hand Painted Kiss Me Necktie for $4.49, Check Here ☐

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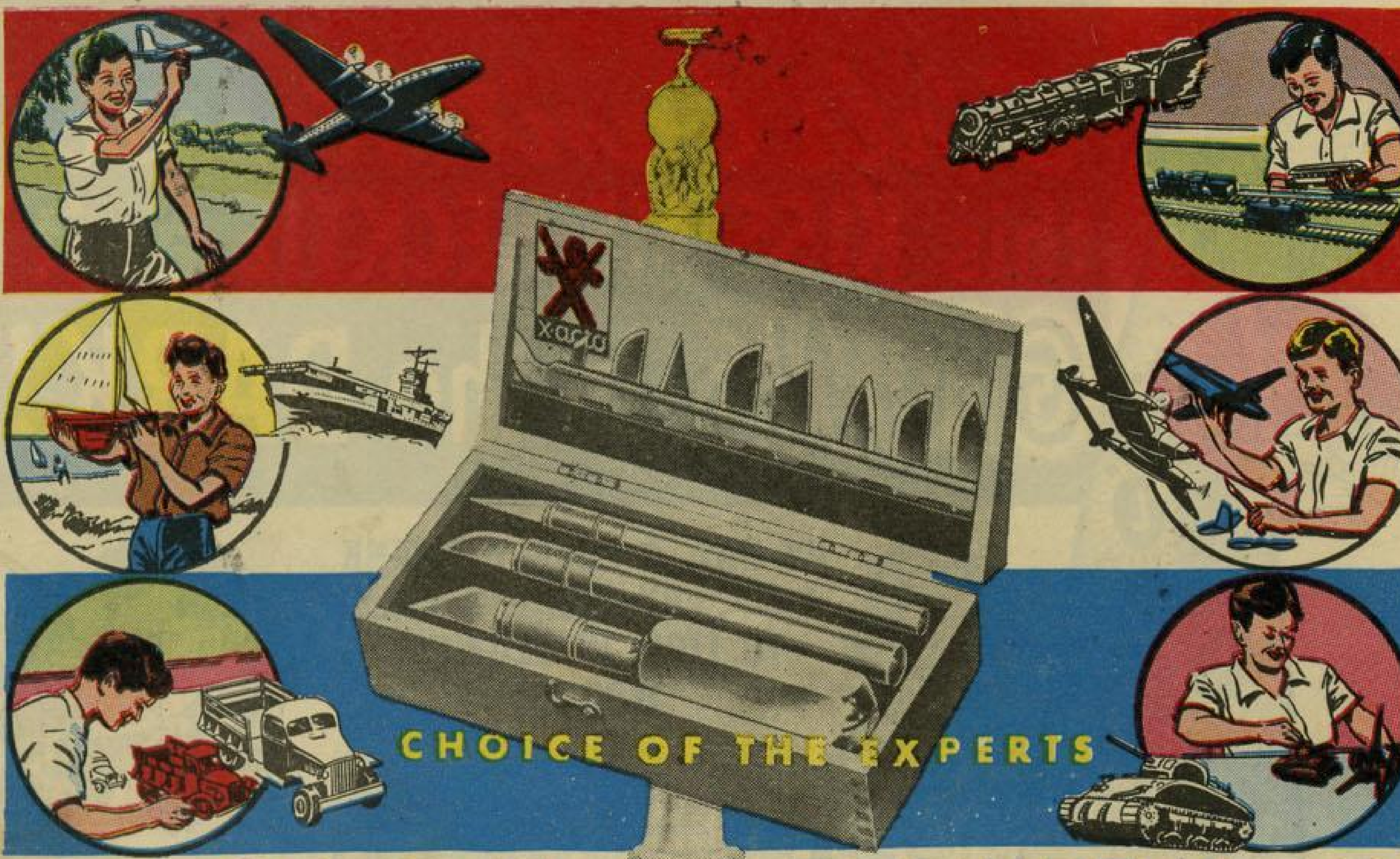

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